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TOWNSHIP HISTORIES

Peoria County, Illinois

PRINCEVILLE

AKRON

MILLBROOK

JUBILEE

HALLOCK

RADNOR

Reprinted by permission of David McCulloch and Munsell
Publishing Co. from "Historical Encyclopedia of
Illinois and History of Peoria County"
(Munsell Pub'g Co., Chicago, 1902).

ESSEX

VALLEY

Partly taken from "History of Stark County" (M. A. Leeson
& Co., Chicago, 1887).

To the History of Jubilee Township is added the text of a booklet recently
issued by Raymond Riordon, Principal of Jubilee College, telling of the rejuven-
ation of Jubilee, which all old settlers are glad to see.

COMPLIMENTS OF

AUTEN & AUTEN, BANKERS

PRINCEVILLE, ILL., and MONICA, ILL.

November, 1905.

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PRINCEVILLE TOWNSHIP

BY EDWARD AUTEN AND PETER AUTEN, JR.

*C. E. & P. Auten & Auten, Princeville, Ill.
Dec. 26, 1906.*

Seeking a free and open country, Daniel Prince came from Indiana, and, in 1822, was the first white man to live among the Indians in what, three years later, was the northern part of Peoria County. In a few years other white men, some of them friends or employes of Mr. Prince, gathered around the attractive timber, and the settlement became known as Prince's Grove. Mr. Prince, as he drove into Peoria market in the winter of 1832-33, is thus described by Mr. John Z. Slane, then a small boy living in Peoria: "The men shouted that Prince was coming, and he was a nabob. Clad in a home-spun and home-wove blue-jeans overcoat reaching to his ankles, with an old felt hat, a comforter over his hat, brought down over ears and neck and tied in front, with long, large whiskers, and chewing tobacco, Prince came up with his three-yoke team of oxen. His load was hogs, dressed. Mounting his wagon he slung off, first the hay for the cattle, then quilt after quilt, and then hurried the unloading of the meat. After feeding his oxen in the rail-fence enclosure, and perhaps eating his own lunch there, and perhaps lying on the floor at the Indian store over night, Mr. Prince returned to his home." Mr. Prince is described as a modest man, tall, but stooping, with brown curly hair, red cheeks, and light eyes, probably blue. At home he was more easy-going than when seen in the Peoria market. He was a farmer on a large scale, furnishing employment to all who needed it, and very generous. Different men, who were then boys, tell of his butchering a steer or a hog and giving a quarter here

and a quarter there. If any neighbor needed something to eat and had nothing, Mr. Prince furnished it; payment was to be made whenever that neighbor found it convenient, and if it was never made, Mr. Prince did not complain. It is needless to say that it was for Daniel Prince that Princeville Township and Princeville Village were later named. His brother, Myron Prince, was an early settler a few miles to the northwest, later keeping a hotel in Princeville, and Myron Prince's son, George W. Prince, is now Congressman from the Galesburg District.

Mr. Prince's log cabin was on Section 24, a few rods west of Sylvester and Elizabeth Slane's present residence (1902). This was "on the edge of the timber," and the next three cabins, remembered at this time, were "along the hollow" to the north of Prince's. One was very near Higbee's present coal-shaft, on Mrs. Jacob Fast's land, one double cabin was at a fork in the ravine a few rods south, and another a few rods east of that. All these cabins—and, in fact, the entire west half of Section 24—belonged to Mr. Prince. The cabin near Higbee's coal-shaft was occupied by Dr. Oscar Fitzalen Mott, of the old "Thomsonian" school. The double cabin had an ox-mill in one end of it for grinding corn.

This was the country in the early day, up to about 1835 or 1836. The Indians had left immediately after the Black Hawk War of 1832. The prairies grew prairie grass, rosin-weed, "red-root," and "shoe-string." Near the timber and in the timber were often patches of hazel brush, sumach, black-berry bushes and goose-berry bushes. Now and then eight or ten, or a dozen deer could be seen in the edge of the hills. Along Spoon River, tradition says, there were droves

of deer with sometimes as many as 150 head together. There were also wild cats "as large as lynxes," and plenty of wolves, both the coyotes or prairie wolves and the gray timber wolves. The timber was of large growth, and had very few small trees. Daniel Prince appreciated the timber, and took means to preserve it. He plowed two sets of furrows and burned the grass between them around both the "North Grove" and "South Grove" to protect from prairie fires.

By 1839 the country was too thickly settled to suit Mr. Prince. His cattle, roaming around, found neighbors' hay stacks to hook. The neighbors, in turn, "sicked the dogs" on Prince's cattle, and he would have no more of it. He moved in that year, 1839, (or 1840) to Missouri, where the country was free.

Sometime prior to 1837, Mr. William C. Stevens was riding from his home at the forks of the Kickapoo in Rosefield Township, on horseback toward Rock Island, and admired the present site of Princeville. It was level and high rolling ground, between the two groves. Later he purchased the southeast quarter of Section 13. This joined on the north the northeast quarter of Section 24, which was owned by Benjamin Clark and Jesse M. McCutchen, land speculators. Mr. Stevens and Clark & McCutchen on June 22, 1837, acknowledged and filed for record the plat of original Princeville. The streets received their names in the following manner: North and South Streets, from their location on the plat; Main, because Mr. Stevens thought it would be the principal street, as is evidenced by his choosing it to build on; Spring, from the spring near its east end; Walnut, from the fine trees below its south terminus; French Street, for Stephen French, toward whose farm this street led; Clark, for Mr. Clark of

Clark & McCutchen, as he wanted each of the three partners to have a street named for himself. Mr. McCutchen and Mr. Stevens, however, did not want their names to appear as streets; so Mr. McCutchen named his street Canton, in honor of the town where he lived. Mr. Stevens named High and Tremont Streets to commemorate a pleasant stay with a cousin of his, Simeon Short by name, whose residence, the finest in the place, occupied the corner of High and Tremont streets, at Thetford, Vermont. Sumner and Stanton Streets, in the later Stevens' addition, were named for the statesmen of whom Mr. Stevens was a great admirer.

The village grew slowly. John Z. Slane says (1902) that, when he came on January 13, 1841, the families in town numbered nine, as follows: His father, Benjamin Slane, William Coburn, Peter Auten, Samuel Alexander, George McMillen, Moses R. Sherman, Jonathan Nixon, Seth Fulton and William C. Stevens. Mr. Prince, Elisha Morrow, Lawrence McKown and John F. Garrison had just left. Stephen French lived northwest of the village. He was the first man to bring his family to the township, which was in 1828, and his son, Dimmick, was acknowledged to be the first white male child born in the county. Thomas Morrow, a settler since 1831, lived southeast of the village, and George I. McGinnis, a settler since 1835, northeast. The two last named, although living in Akron, belong in Princeville history.

Over the line in Akron Township, about fifteen or twenty rods southeast of the present Rock Island & Peoria Railway station, on the northwest corner of Section 19, was a log school house, very famous in its day. It accommodated as many as sixty scholars, children coming from all directions, as far as Spoon River

to the northwest, and the center of Jubilee Township on the southwest. The first teacher here was Miss Esther Stoddard, and later ones were Miss Phoebe Stoddard, Mrs. Olive L. Cutter, Jane Hull, Theodore F. Hurd, Peter Auten, B. F. Hilliard, S. S. Cornwell, ——— Newell, Isaac Moss, and Daniel B. Allen. This cabin was also used as a "meeting house" for different church denominations, and as a polling place for all voters in "Prince's Grove Precinct." It was burned about 1849.

Democratic and Whig politics waxed warm in the National election of 1840, and one old settler tells of the string of men going all day from the school house to Seth Fulton's tavern. The "bell-wether" of one party carried a jug of whiskey in plain sight leading the men on with his shouts, and voting them in a body. William P. Blanchard and Stephen French had been elected the first Justices of the Peace in 1838, and they, with the help of the three County Commissioners, furnished the government for the precinct.

Princeville Township was organized in 1850, the voting population then numbering 100. The first officials were: Supervisor, Leonard B. Cornwell; Town Clerk, Jonathan Nixon; Assessor, Seth Fulton; Collector, William C. Stevens; Justices of the Peace, William C. Stevens and Solomon S. Cornwell; Constables, John Fulton and John E. Seery; Commissioners of Highways, Wm. P. Blanchard, Wm. P. Smith and Ira Moody; Overseer of the Poor, Solomon Bliss. Benjamin Slane, who lived over the line in Akron, was elected the first Supervisor of that township in the same year.

The township was now rapidly filling up. "Congress land" on the prairie was unlimited at \$1.25 per acre. Military claims or "patent lands" had been



allotted in the timber. Land with timber near Princeville Village sold around 1840 for \$200 up to \$800 for a quarter section. The open prairie was, by 1850-55, selling for \$400 to \$800 per quarter. The greater rise in values did not come until after the Civil War and the days of tiling. The early "blind ditches," made with a "mole" drain machine, were not satisfactory. The mole was a wedge-shaped iron, fastened to the bottom end of a flat and sharp bar of steel, which was fastened to a frame. This implement was drawn through the ground by several yoke of oxen or a capstan. Fences, earliest, were of the worm-rail variety, then of post and rail; on the prairie, later, a machine was used to cut and pile rows of sod, making ditches alongside. Above the sod was sometimes placed a low fence, "staked and ridered," or stakes were driven in the sod and boards or wire attached. The sod fence was not a marked success, and smooth wire was also a failure. After pine lumber came within easy reach, fences were very largely, especially away from the timber, built of posts and boards. Before many years the osage orange tree was introduced as a fence; then came barbed wire, and very recently woven wire. As the prairie was fenced, the town records show a gradual squaring of the old Rock Island and Peoria State Road, and other angling roads, to north and south and east and west roads, mostly on section lines. It was when the Illinois and Michigan canal was opened, allowing lumber to come from Chicago via LaSalle and the Illinois river, that building began on the open prairie.

In the fall of 1847 the school was removed from the old log cabin in Akron to the new stone school house, which still stands, with a frame part added to it, on

lot 5, block 13, on Canton Street. This was built by public donations of stone, lime, timber, labor and money, the only way in which it could be afforded, and was then given and owned as a public school house. B. F. Slane taught the first winter here (1847-48) and John M. Henry the next. Women teachers were hired for the summer months. This house was used until the completion, in 1873 or 1874, of the present brick school house. The records show three school districts in the township in 1847, which were gradually increased in number by subdivision, until the present number, nine, was attained in 1871.

Before the days of "district schools" supported by public funds, were four or five "subscription schools," for which each family "signed money." The log school house on Section 19, Akron Township, was run on this plan at first. Another was located in the William P. Blanchard neighborhood on Section 22; another on the northwest quarter of Section 16; one on Section 5; and one on Section 8. All of these schools except the one in Princeville village, were held in cabins built for dwellings. One father paid for a year's schooling for his children, the total sum of nine dollars and thought this a large sum to pay. He had ten children. After a few years the cabin on Section 8 was superseded by a frame school house, built from lumber sawed at Prince's sawmill, and having nothing but the thin siding to keep out the cold. This was moved to the present site of the "Moody" or District No. 2 (new No. 94) School.

In this same northwest corner of the township, along the belt of timber bordering Spoon River, settlements had been made almost as early as at Prince's Grove. Hugh White, Christian Miller, Sr., and his

sons, Christian, Henry, Dan, James and John, Ira Moody and Robert Colwell were among the earliest residents. James Morrow went from Prince's Grove to Spoon River in 1832, but the Indians, during the Black Hawk War, molested the settlers there, and he returned to Prince's Grove. The foregoing are mentioned by Mrs. Jane Smith (widow of John Smith), as residents when she came with her parents, Walter and Rachel Payne, in 1842, to Section 7. Between them and Princeville, a distance of six miles, the only house on the prairie was that of John Miller on Section 16. On a line farther south were the houses of B. S. Scott, Oliver Moody, John Dukes, Boling Hare and James Debord. Coal was not yet known to be here, and some did not know what it was when found a few years later. Timber was held high by those who owned it, and was frequently stolen. Cutting from land of non-residents, and from Government lands, was common. Fifty cents was charged for a small load of wood on the ground, and one dollar for a walnut which would split into four posts for the corners of a small shed.

On the northern side of "White Oak," the timber which extends into Princeville from Jubilee Township and the region of the Kickapoo, and on the prairie adjoining in the central and southwestern parts of the township, the early settlers were Solomon S. Cornwell, Wm. P. Blanchard, John McKune, Wm. Parnell, Joseph Mendel, John Hill; and, a little later, Wm. Lynch, Wm. Cummins, John Nelson and Lawrence Seery, Reuben Deal, Roger Cook and John O'Brien.

"West Princeville" may be said to have started with the building of the O'Brien wagon and blacksmith shops, in 1856 or '57. They were located on

the south side of the road between Sections 19 and 30, about one-fourth mile east of the Millbrook line. Here John O'Brien and his sons, James, Joseph and "Billy," manufactured wagons, cultivators and harrows. Billy O'Brien invented and got a patent on a three-winged iron harrow, which they made in large quantities and shipped far and wide, the famous "O'Brien harrow." The cultivators were without wheels and their manufacture was soon discontinued on account of the appearance of wheeled cultivators. The O'Briens sold out to Jesse Carey and moved to Kewanee, where they continued to make the O'Brien wagons and harrows on a much more extensive scale. William P. Hawver kept, in one building, a grocery and shop for making and repairing boots and shoes. He was succeeded by ——— McElhose, who conducted the grocery only. Robert Lovett, father of our present County Judge, was a blacksmith at West Princeville.

In 1858 the Mt. Zion Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in this same neighborhood, meeting in the Nelson School House, now District No. 8 (new No. 100). In 1867 this society built a church on the southwest corner of Section 20, a little east of West Princeville. This was a frame building, 32x45 feet, costing about \$2,200. The starting of Cornwell, soon called Monica, on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, was the quitting of West Princeville. Nearly all of the buildings, the church included, were moved to the new town. But we must go back to the '50's again to tell of the old "oil works," and then describe the days of the war.

The oil factory was located on the southwest quarter of Section 27, the farm now owned by Joseph E. Hill, and the "oil company" owned, in addition, the

square 40-acre tract cornering with this land on the northeast. The refinery was a large stone building in the hollow, with six or eight retorts close by. The company had a house called the hotel, an office and store combined, and many small buildings. Out of the 18-inch vein of cannel coal they made a "coal oil" similar to kerosene, and sometimes had as many as 30 or 40 workmen. The 18 to 24 inches of bituminous coal on top of the cannel was of poor quality and brought little or no return. The oil, barreled and hauled to Chillicothe, although sold at \$1.00 or \$1.10 per gallon, did not pay for the cost of production, and the discovery of oil fields in Pennsylvania killed the industry at once. This was about the year 1859. The buildings were gradually torn down or removed.

In the northeast part of the township early names were the following: Wm. P. Smith, Moses and Carlos Alford, George Andrews, Henry Adams, Ezra Adams, Frederick Griswold, Joseph Nickerson, James Jackson, Dr. Harlan, John M. Henry and Godfrey Fritz. In the southeast part of the township were the Boutons, Wears, Slanes, Wilsons, Woodbury, Little, Harrisons and Mansfield.

William C. Stevens, the founder of Princeville Village, and Dr. Charles Cutter were, perhaps, the strongest Free Soilers in the township. They voted for Van Buren, the first Free Soil candidate for President in 1848, and often stood ill treatment for their principles. Their fences were burned, their trees girdled, their houses egged, and their persons sometimes threatened. Ichabod Coddling was an Abolition evangelist. When objection was made to his speaking any more in the Presbyterian Church, Mr. Stevens said, "Thank God, I have a place of my own where he may speak," and

after that the speeches were in Mr. Stevens' yard. Many runaway slaves were harbored by Mr. Stevens and Dr. Cutter and sped on toward freedom. Dr. Cutter at one time had as many as six black men hid in the cellar of his house, and, on a certain occasion, one such refugee was scarcely half an hour away, under a wagon load of fodder, when his pursuers fiercely demanded him of Mrs. Cutter, only to be told there was "no such man in the house."

When the war broke out, the "Lucky Thirteen," who all came back, went from Princeville and joined the "Peoria Battery," Battery A of the Second Illinois Artillery. In the fall of 1861 two Princeville men joined Col. Ingersoll's regiment, the Eleventh Cavalry. These two men, Stephen A. Andrews and John Sheelor, immediately came back from Peoria on a furlough and, in two weeks, took down twelve more men with them.

The distinctively Princeville company was started in August, 1862. On that date Congressman Ebon Clark Ingersoll (brother to Bob) came out from Peoria to hold a "war meeting." Julius S. Starr accompanied him in the hope of getting recruits for a Peoria company, and recruit hunters were present also from Chillicothe and other places. The meeting was held in the old Methodist Episcopal Church, then on the corner southwest of the public square. The crowd was so large that the windows were taken out to enable men to hear on the outside. After the speaking the crowd gathered on the public square, when Clark Ingersoll got on a wagon and proposed a Princeville company. John McGinnis began fising, indicating that he was going, and led a march around the "liberty pole." Others fell in, a few at a time, until there were fifty men marching around and around the "liberty pole." Then

they paraded to Dr. Charles's office, got out a table in the center of the room, and signed the muster roll. Within forty-eight hours the roll was increased to 96 men. This was Company K of the Eighty-sixth Regiment, Illinois Infantry. John F. French was elected Captain, James B. Peet, First Lieutenant and H. F. Irwin, Second Lieutenant. The company was soon ordered into camp at the Peoria Fair Grounds and saw, in all, twenty-one engagements, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge and Kenesaw Mountain being among the number. The company was in "Sherman's March to the Sea." Somewhere near one-half the company still survive (1902), and those residing at Princeville are organized, with their comrades, in J. F. French Post, No. 153, G. A. R. On Decoration Day, 1900, John McGinnis dedicated in Princeville Cemetery, a monument "In Memory of all Soldiers and Sailors who, on Land or Sea, periled Life for Liberty and Law—1861-65." Princeville always honors her soldiers, and Decoration Day sees the gathering of several townships in memory of the dead and in honor of the living.

An outgrowth of civil war conditions was the organization, in August, 1863, of the Thief Detective and Mutual Aid Association. The demand for horses and resultant high prices caused horse-stealing to flourish to an unpleasant extent, and this society was organized to stop the stealing around Princeville, and to catch the thieves. It accomplished its purpose well at the time, and has continued a strong society to the present. Wm. P. Smith, Solomon Bliss, Charles Beach, Vaughn Williams and S. S. Slane were the originators of the society. Wm. P. Smith was the first captain, followed by H. F. Irwin, John G. Corbet, Solomon Bliss, J. D. Hammer and S. S. Slane, who is now serving his sixteenth year in that capacity.

Before railroads were built, Princeville was one of the stopping places on the stage routes running from Peoria and Chillicothe, through Southampton to Princeville and to the West and Northwest. The stage, which carried the mail as well as passengers, came at first once a week, then twice, and later three times a week, stopping at the Bliss-McMillen Hotel.

The public square, now covered with growing trees and familiarly called the Park, was given to the village by its founder, Mr. Stevens. In 1874 an attempt was made by the officials to mar the square by locating on it the village hall and, as was reputed, a calaboose. Injunction proceedings were started by Peter Auten, in company with Mr. Stevens and other citizens, to block the intended purpose, and, on the testimony of the donor that he had given the square to be an open space, park or square, "for light and air, and to be for the beauty of the village and the health of its inhabitants," a perpetual injunction was granted.

Mr. Stevens was also generous with his land for church and school sites. He gave the lot for the stone school house so long as used for a school site, and the right of reversion he gave up on condition that the new brick school house, then building, should have a front on the north, architecturally equal to the front as planned for the south of the building. He wanted the front on the north side, but the directors insisted on the south front. Main Street, he said, would have no front, and the other and only front would look out on "Mosquito Swale" and "Carrion Hollow;" his reference was to a swampy place suitable for breeding mosquitoes, and a hollow where the dead horses of the neighborhood had formerly been deposited—each of which was south of and not far distant from the new school site.

Princeville's markets in the early day had been Peoria, Lacon and Chillicothe. The price of hogs in the Peoria market varied a great deal; sometimes the buyers would say, "Seventy-five cents for a hog, big or little—tumble them off." Ox teams sometimes drove to Chicago with wheat, bringing back lumber, salt and clothing. The windows, doors and casings for Dr. Charles Cutter's house were thus carted from Chicago, and also the shingles for the first Presbyterian Church. Other lumber was obtained at saw-mills, on Spoon River and Kickapoo Creek. Grist-mills familiar to all old settlers, were Cox's Mill and the Rochester Mill on Spoon River, the Spring Valley Mill, Evans' Mill in Radnor Township and Miles's Mill at Southport, Elmwood Township.

Mills closer to Princeville were "Jimmie" Jackson's "whip-saw" mill, Erastus and Thompson Peet's saw-mill, James Harrison's saw and grist-mill, and Hawn's Mill, all in Akron Township, and Hawn's mill within the village limits. Hitchcock, Voorhees & Seed erected a large grist-mill in 1867 or '68, in the northwest corner of Section 19, Akron Township, which was operated later by Hitchcock & Voorhees, and by Daniel Hitchcock alone. It burned about 1884. John Bowman operated a saw-mill for several years in the triangular piece of ground east of the railroad, north of Block One.

The first railroad assured Princeville Township was the Peoria & Rock Island, now called the Rock Island & Peoria. It was built between 1868 and 1870, the township giving it \$50,000 in bonds. The Buda Branch of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, projected a little later, was, however, completed first, and it received no bonus from the township. The

Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad crossed the township from east to west in 1887, making a junction with the Rock Island & Peoria at Princeville, and with the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy at Monica.

Monica was platted first under the name of Cornwell, in honor of Solomon S. Cornwell. The name was soon afterward changed to Monica. It is located on Section 21, on the divide between Spoon River and Kickapoo Creek, giving it a good drainage. The "Q" Road had been built two years before this station was given. One theory is that the company were angry because no bonds had been voted them, and they gave the township no depot until the competition of the Peoria & Rock Island forced them to it. The postmasters in succession have been W. W. Hurd, L. L. Campbell, P. R. Ford, Etta Lincoln, Jane Ford and G. R. Campbell, the present incumbent. The first general store was built and started by Andrew D. Rogers, on the southwest corner of Block 9. This building was burned in 1890, and the same corner burned again in 1896. The third building is the present large store of Mrs. Wilts. In 1897 one of the three grain elevators burned. But one strange thing in the history of Monica is that no dwelling detached from stores, has ever been burned. The boarding house at the oil factory was moved to Monica and used as a hotel, and still stands, remodeled, on the northeast corner of Block 14, the residence of Lemuel Auten. The next hotel was P. R. Ford's, which burned in 1884. The next was R. M. Todd's, built in 1888, now managed by G. A. Keith as "The Empire." W. P. Hawver moved from West Princeville when Monica was only surveyed in the oats field, and has been a merchant there ever since.

The Mt. Zion Methodist Episcopal Church building was moved from West Princeville in 1877, and enlarged and repaired at a cost of about \$1,300. The church was a part of the Princeville M. E. charge prior to 1894. In September, 1894, it was organized and, with Laura (of Millbrook Township), became the Monica charge. Rev. Thos. J. Wood was the first pastor, followed in succession by Revs. P. S. Garretson, 1895; O. M. Dunlevy, 1896; H. C. Birch, 1898; H. C. Gibson, 1900; James G. Blair, 1901. The Monica Blue Ribbon Club, in the '70's, was a very large and enthusiastic Temperance Society. Monica's population now is about 225, with the following persons in business, besides those already mentioned: W. W. Day, grain and lumber; J. D. Rathbun and J. F. Kidder, general merchandise; Alice Wilts, general merchandise and hardware; Auten & Auten, bankers (Lemuel Auten in charge); William Saunders, restaurant; D. W. Gross and W. P. Jones, physicians; George Conover, blacksmith; Walter Byrnes, barber; Wm. George, harness; R. M. Todd, livery; J. Duffy, agent Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad; James Curren, agent Santa Fe R. R.; A. J. Hayes and Miss Jennie Burns, principal and assistant, Monica schools.

"White's Grove," to the west and north of Monica (named from Hugh White), may be said to have settled rapidly after the coming of Esq. Joseph Armstrong in 1856. The White's Grove Baptist Church was organized December 9, 1871, with fourteen members. The pastors have been in succession: A. D. Bump, 1872; J. M. Stickney, 1873; E. M. Armstrong, 1876; J. M. Bruce, 1882; E. M. Armstrong, 1883-85; A. R. Morgan, 1886-90; T. Phillips, 1891; S. Gray, 1894-98; E. Quick, 1901. Jackson Leaverton has been

Superintendent of the Sunday-school. The church now numbers 22 members.

The early Princeville community seems to have been more orderly and law-abiding than the average frontier town. The "Atlas Map of Peoria County" says of Princeville Township: "It is settled mostly by high-toned, moral and religious people, who came from the Eastern and Southern States. Of the nineteen townships in Peoria County, its people rank first in education, religion and public spirit." It is not known now who may have been the author of this sketch, but his remarks were not far out of the way, even including Peoria Township among the nineteen.

Taking the Civil War as a dividing line between early and present Princeville history, no question of greater import—even to Princeville's welfare to-day—could be raised, than the personal character for godliness, integrity and learning of the quiet, determined teachers. They, from time to time, settled and taught, labored and made homes, and left their impress on the young in this now thriving town. Among these teachers there are still remembered the names of Andrews, Aldrich, Allen, Auten, Breese (the first Presbyterian pastor), Burnham, Carlisle, Clussman, Cooper, Cunningham (pastor and teacher), Cutter, Cutler, Egbert, Foster, Farwell, Goodale, Hinman, Kimball, Means, Munson, Noyes, Page, Julia Rogers, Ann Rogers, Stanley, Stone, White, Wright, and others, no doubt as significant but not now recurring to memory. Private schools were conducted at different times by Mrs. Hannah Breese, first in a little building on lot 6 or 7, Block 9—conceded to be the first frame building in Princeville, and near the west end of the large Hitchcock building—and later, in her home, now the resi-

dence property owned by Mrs. Willard Bennett, on the Princeville-Akron township line about 80 rods north of Canton Street; by Mrs. Lydia Auten at her home; by Miss Julia Rogers in the little house occupied by Guy Bouton on North Street, north of lot 3, Block 1; by Mrs. Ann Rogers at the home of her brother-in-law, Peter Auten; by Miss Lizzie Farwell, at the home of Wm. C. Stevens; and perhaps by others. Mr. Wm. C. Stevens, already mentioned as the founder of Princeville Village, was a gentleman of education, culture and public spirit, and was prominent in all educational and public matters.

It was in the fall of 1856 that the demand for higher education encouraged Mr. Milton S. Kimball to start a school in the Presbyterian church, which later developed into the first Princeville Academy. A two-story frame building was erected on the south side of Main Street on lots 3 and 4, Block 14, just east of the present public school square. Rev. Jared M. Stone and Rev. William Cunningham were other successful principals. The academy flourished with a large attendance, drawn from wide territory. The war, however, virtually killed the school. The building was sold and moved to Canton Street for store purposes, it being the building long occupied by E. C. Fuller, now by J. L. Searl's grocery, located on the west side of lot 7, Block 12.

A number of the pupils of this old academy, with other citizens, some of whom had gone East to college, in later life desired a similar academy for their children. As a result, another Princeville Academy was started in 1887, being conducted until 1900 by changing Boards of Management, who bore the responsibility and constant expense of the school. Sessions were held

the first year in the old Seventh Day Adventist church; the next two years in the new chapel rooms of the Presbyterian church, and from 1890 on, in the Second M. E. church building, purchased by Edward Auten for the purpose. A still greater number of young people from the later academy were fitted for college study. The principals of the later academy were, in succession: James Stevens, 1887; C. F. Brusie, '88; B. M. Southgate, '90; Edwin B. Cushing, '91; H. W. Eckley, '93; T. H. Rhodes, '94; Ernest W. Cushing, '96; Royal B. Cushing, '97; J. E. Armstrong, '99-1900.

The Princeville public schools have grown and improved. A high school course is offered, including Latin and twelfth grade work, under the principalship of William M. Beale. The four large assembly rooms of the brick building are taxed by the ten upper grades, and the primary grades occupy Edward Auten's academy building, under the able instruction of Miss M. E. Edwards. Miss Mina Edwards, Miss Etta Powell and Mr. Harry O'Brien are the teachers of the intermediate and grammar grades. The Board of Directors is as follows: H. J. Cheesman, President; E. D. Minkler, Secretary, and David Kinnah.

The Presbyterian Church, organized August 16, 1834, as Prince's Grove church, was the first to have a house of worship. The log school house became too small for the meetings, and a frame structure was built in 1844 in the southeast corner of block 12. This was built at a great sacrifice on the part of Mr. Stevens, Thomas Morrow, Dr. Cutter, Erastus Peet and others. Thomas Morrow, Erastus Peet and William Clussman each hauled a load of lumber from Chicago. It was a great day when the church building was "raised." The entire community assembled, the men and boys

to aid in the raising, and the women and girls to provide the refreshments. This house was used by the church society until September 6, 1866, when the main part of the present church was dedicated. The chapel rooms were added in 1888 and \$1,000, bequeathed by Miss Mary C. Clussman, was expended for installing new seats, furnaces and other repairs in 1899. The ministers in succession have been: Calvin W. Babbitt, 1835-38; George G. Sill, 1838; Robert F. Breese (first pastor) 1843-51; Robert Cameron, 1851-57; Geo. Cairns, 1857-58; Jared M. Stone, 1858-64; Wm. Cunningham, 1864-71; Arthur Rose, 1871-77; Samuel R. Belville, 1877-86; Charles M. Taylor, 1887-95; D. A. K. Preston, 1896-97; Charles T. Phillips, 1897—. The Sunday-school Superintendent at present is C. J. Cheesman.

Rt. Rev. Philander Chase, Episcopal Bishop of Illinois, preached occasionally in the stone school house. A Congregational organization existed for a short time with the Rev. B. F. Worrell as pastor, sometime in the '50's.

The Christian Church society flourished in the '50's, with a building on Canton Street (lots 5 and 6, block 14, just east of the present public school square), the building later being removed and used as the old village hall. The membership of this church was largely merged, early in the '60's, into the Seventh Day Adventist Church, which was starting new. The latter society purchased the first M. E. church building in 1866 and used it until about 1888. Since then the society has most of the time met at the home of Elder L. D. Santee. Familiar names in this church were the Blanchards, Blisses, Vaneils, Merritts and others.

The Methodist Episcopal Church has had services in Princeville almost from the beginning of the settle-

ment. The "circuit riders" preached first in Aunt Jane Morrow's fine log cabin (a palace among log houses), on the northwest quarter of Section 30, Akron Township; then in the old log school house, and later in the stone school house. They came once a month and later twice a month, as their circuits were shortened. The first M. E. church building was begun in 1853 and finished in 1854, on lots 1 and 2, block 16, the building later being sold to the Seventh Day Adventist Church, and now a barn on the south side of South Street, south of lot 5, block 24. The next church was built about 1867, on lots 7 and 8, block 24 (Edward Auten's Academy building), and was used until the erection of the present edifice, corner of South and Clark Streets, in 1889. The early preachers up to 1856, some of them circuit riders, were, Revs. Pitner, Whitman, Cummins, Hill, Beggs, Chandler, Luccock, Royal (Sr.), Royal (Jr.), Stogdell, Jesse Craig, Gregg, Grundy, Gaddis, Reack, Morse, Appleby, Dodge, Giddings, Rhodes and Mills. The list from 1856 on, is as follows, the date after each man's name being that of his coming: Revs. J. S. Millsap, '56; E. Keller, '59; W. J. Beck, '60; G. W. Brown, '62; S. B. Smith, '64; S. Cavet, '66; G. W. Havermale, '68; M. Spurlock, '69; E. Wasmuth, '70; J. Collins, '73; W. B. Carithers, '74; W. D. H. Young, '77; S. Brink, '78; J. S. Millsap, '81; M. V. B. White, '82; H. M. Laney, '83; F. W. Merrell, '85; Alex Smith, '88; R. B. Scaman, '93; J. D. Smith, '96; J. E. Conner, '97; John Rogers, '99; R. L. Vivian, 1901.

Catholicity came to Princeville with the early Irish and German settlers, At that time there was no Catholic church nearer than Kickapoo or Peoria, to which places they were accustomed to drive. While

the present Peoria Diocese was part of the Archdiocese of Chicago, the Catholic people of Princeville Township were ministered to by priests from Peoria City. On September 7, 1867, the Rev. J. Murphy was appointed first Rector of the Princeville Parish, and his successors have been in turn, Father Albrecht, Rev. Chas. Wenserski, Rev. Father Moore, Very Rev. J. Canon Moynihan, Rev. H. Schreiber (1881), Rev. P. A. McGair (1884), Rev. C. A. Hausser (1891), Rev. C. P. O'Neill (1901) to the present time. It was in Father Murphy's time that the old Presbyterian church was purchased and made into a Catholic house of worship. Father Albrecht built the present rectory, and, during Father McGair's time, was erected the present beautiful brick church for "St. Mary's of the Woods."

The first paper published in Princeville was the "Princeville Weekly Citizen," by G. T. Gillman, which started in the summer of 1868 and lasted six months. The next was the "Princeville Times," by C. A. Pratt, established in July, 1874, and run four months. The next was the "Princeville Independent," the beginning of the present "Princeville Telephone." Editors in succession have been J. E. Knapp, March 10, 1877; J. G. Corbet, September 29, 1877; J. G. Corbet and H. E. Charles, October 13, 1877; J. G. Corbet and P. C. Hull, October 18, 1878; J. E. Charles and P. C. Hull (P. C. Hull, Editor), October 3, 1879; J. S. Barnum, B. J. Beardsley, Beardsley Bros. (B. J. and G. L.), and the present owners, Addison Dart, Harry D. Fast and Keith C. Andrews. The "Princeville Republican" was started February 2, 1898, by George I. McGinnis, and has continued a prosperous weekly under his direction to the present time. The "Princeville Academy Sol" ran as a school monthly from 1893 to 1900.

After the platting of original Princeville in 1837, additions were made and subdivisions surveyed adjoining, as occasion required. The original village is five blocks square, with the park in the center. W. C. Stevens' subdivision on the south and west was platted in 1864 (plat filed in 1869); lot 27 of this subdivision was re-subdivided into several smaller lots in 1877, and some of them, in turn, were included in 1887 in McGinnis & Russell's addition. Lots 15 and 16 of the first subdivision were platted in 1897 into Hoag & Ward's addition. On the east of the village, in Akron, Day & Hitchcock's addition was laid off in 1869. This was at the time of building the Peoria & Rock Island Railroad, and the lots were disposed of at a great auction. People thought that Princeville, having a railroad, was destined to be a city, and paid prices far in advance of values thirty-three years later, in 1902. The promoters of the addition reserved some of the best lots that they might themselves "get the benefit of the rise," but they missed it in not selling all out at first. W. C. Stevens's addition on the west (including the school house square) was platted in 1871, and part of it vacated in 1877.

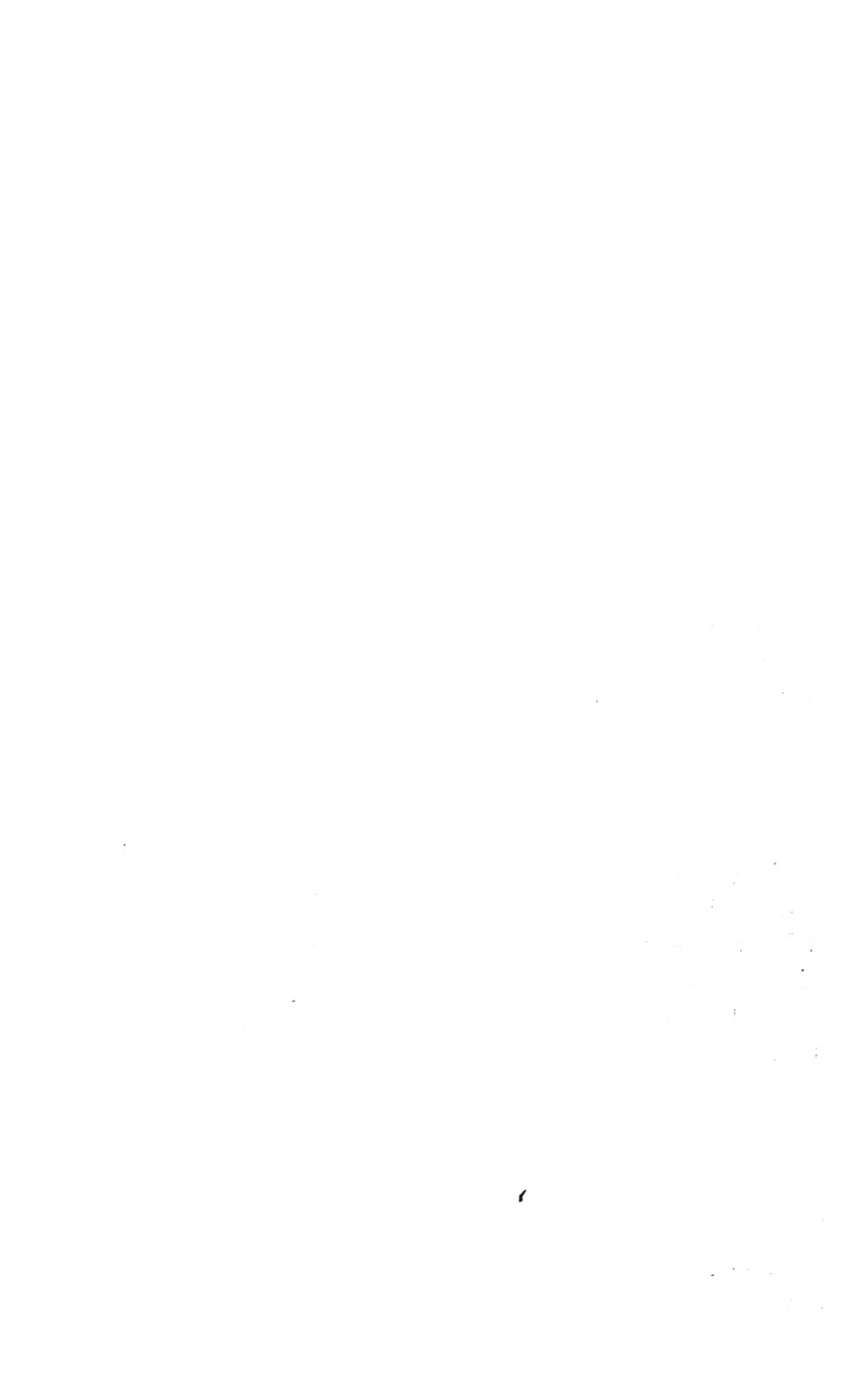
"Timber Subdivisions" of two and one-half and five-acre lots, were made by Stephen French on the northwest quarter of Section 13 in 1854 and 1857; by heirs of Thomas Morrow on the southeast quarter of Section 12 in 1869; and by William Morrow on Section 19, Akron Township, in 1876. The lots in all of these subdivisions were disposed of at public auctions. Farmers found it more necessary then to have timber to use than they do now in the days of lumber yards and wire fences.

The first burying ground in Prince's Grove was on

Section 25, near its north line, and about sixty-four to seventy-one rods west of the northeast corner of the section, where a few sunken graves may still be distinguished. The number of people buried here is variously estimated at from ten to twenty-five. In the White's Grove district a burying ground was located on the northwest quarter of Section 8, about fourteen rods from the north line (twelve rods from the road) and thirty-five rods west of the east line of said quarter section. Thirteen graves may now be distinguished. The present cemetery in the northwest part of the incorporated village was first used in 1844, the first burial being that of a daughter of George I. McGinnis, named Temperance, who died September 14th of that year. For many years graves were placed at random, when, in 1864, the survey into lots, paths and driveways was made. The original cemetery has been enlarged by three or four successive additions. The Catholic cemetery on Section 7, Akron, was laid out in 1875.

Early stone quarries were those of B. F. and J. Z. Slane, on the southeast quarter of Section 24; of Austin and T. P. Bouton, on Section 25, and the smaller one of Thomas Morrow on Section 12. The Slane brother's quarried both sandstone and limestone, burning the latter into lime. This was a grey lime, suitable for everything but a white finish. Limestone was also used in Princeville from the quarry of James Byrnes in White Oak, Jubilee Township.

During the first few years of the settling of the township, coal was not known to be here, and when it was first dug up or seen lying on top of the ground, its utility was not known. Mr. Archibald Smith remembers very distinctly the first load hauled to the school



house on Section 8—he thinks in the year 1847—hailed by Sam White from the James Morrow farm on Section 18. It was then called “stone-coal.” Charles Plummer later operated a bank on the same farm and Wm. Hughes had a famous bank on Section 7. At some of the coal banks the settlers would go and dig for their own use as they pleased. In the later years coal has been mined in various parts of the township, shafts being the thickest north of Princeville Village. The banks now operating (1902) are those of Jackson Leaverton, on Section 18; of Graves Bros., on Section 10; of W. C. Ricker and of Robert Taylor (on the Alford farm) on Section 11; and of Higbee & Cutler, on Section 24—the last mentioned being within the corporate limits of Princeville, and employing the largest number of men.

Brick yards were operated by Erastus Peet and George I. McGinnis in the early days on Sections 30 and 7, respectively, both in Akron. James Byrnes of Jubilee Township, James Rice and W. H. Gray furnished brick for some of the stores now standing. Gray’s brick yard was in the northwest corner of the village, northwest of the cemetery, where an excavation in the hillside may still be seen. It was brick made by Gray that went into the present school building. E. Keeling started a brick yard in the southeast corner of Section 12 in 1887. He sold out in 1892 to Edward Hill, who has ever since manufactured and sold a large quantity of brick.

Princeville Village was incorporated first as “The Town of Princeville,” under a special charter, April 15, 1869, and again as “The Village of Princeville,” under the general law, March 24, 1874. The incorporation was started by the temperance people to en-

able the village to control its own liquor traffic, and as they hoped, to eradicate the saloons. The anti-license party carried the first election, but failed from 1870 to 1878, when they again came into power, this time for a term of two years. The license party ruled from 1880 to 1883, the anti-license from 1883 to 1885, and then it was a constant struggle, with varying results, until 1895. Beginning with May 1st of that year the anti-license party has been in control continuously to the present time. R. F. Henry, F. B. Blanchard, J. B. Ferguson, Edward Auten, John F. Bliss and Milton Hammer, in the President's chair, and others, have been "war horses" in the fight against saloons. In the later years there have been different citizens' leagues, furnishing money and moral support for prosecutions. The temperance people, from the beginning of their efforts to prohibit the sale of liquors, up to the present time, have always found in Frank C. Hitchcock, entrenched in the castle which his father built and denominated "Almost a new Jerusalem," a foeman worthy of their steel. Affable, gentlemanly, and self-contained, he has combatted the advance of temperance reform both at the elections and as a salesman at his place of business. Often, when the temperance people felt sure of success as to an election, or as to the result of a prosecution brought against him for selling, have they found his success complete. But notwithstanding his ability and prowess, he has a number of times met defeat. If he has sold in the last few years it has been without legal sanction and to a very limited patronage of men believed to have been long ago confirmed in their habits. It is believed that not many drunkards are now being made from clean young men in the village.

For a time some of the highly respected business men not only voted against the anti-license party, but ran on the other ticket, and served as license councilmen. Later many changed, and even of the few highly respected ones still voting for license, very rarely is one found to allow his name on that ticket.

The anti-license administrations since 1894 and 1895 have carried on the policy of making permanent improvements in the shape of brick sidewalks and graveled roads. The community has felt satisfied with this method of government, and has given the anti-license party a steadily increasing majority, until in 1901 there was not even any license ticket nominated. The present village officers (May, 1902), are F. H. Cutler, President; S. A. Andrews, F. M. Beal, Geo. Corbet, A. C. Moffit, Peter Auten, Jr., and William Berry, Trustees; F. W. Cutler, Clerk; R. J. Benjamin, Magistrate; and the following appointive officers: J. H. Russell, Treasurer; James Walkington, Marshal; James Cornish, Street Commissioner. The first town hall was the old Christian church, previously mentioned in this article, purchased by the village in 1873. The present brick hall, consisting of council room, fire engine, calaboose and upper hall, was erected in 1891, at a cost of about \$5,000. The \$4,400 of bonds issued for this hall are now paid off, and the village has an outstanding bonded indebtedness at the present time of \$3,300, incurred for part of the cost of brick sidewalks. The old plank walks are being replaced as they wear out by brick, until now there are about 50 blocks of brick walk and an equal amount of plank walk, kept in a fair state of repair. An effort has been made each year to gravel some of the roads leading out of town. In 1901 the

last of them were completed, in that year about \$600 being appropriated by the Village Council, and an equal amount being donated by the business men and the farmers who were benefited. A local telephone exchange was installed in 1901 by W. M. Keck. It is likely that the building of permanent sidewalks will continue and that electric lights and waterworks will only be questions of time.

Just as this article is prepared for the press it is announced that temperance parties have procured a six years' lease of the Hitchcock "castle" and made other arrangements which, it is believed, will end a part of the liquor selling in town. Another item of latest news is that parties are now asking for an electric light franchise and contract from the village board.

The village has issued two editions of revised ordinances, one in the winter of 1877-78, when J. B. Ferguson was President, J. G. Corbet, E. C. Fuller, J. F. Carman and V. Weber, Trustees, and H. E. Burgess, Clerk; the other, in 1899-1900, when Milton Hammer was President, N. E. Adams, C. J. Cheesman, Peter Auten, Jr., A. C. Sutherland, Thos. Blakewell and W. S. Weaver, Trustees, and F. D. Goodman and F. W. Cutler, Clerks (Goodman resigning and Cutler succeeding). The first fire company was organized in the winter of 1875-76, and continued until 1899. Its first members were John G. Corbet, C. F. Beach, A. D. Edwards, Robert Pfeiffer, William Russell, J. B. Ferguson, Charles Blanchard, C. N. Pratt, H. E. Burgess, William McDowell, H. A. Simpson, H. E. Charles. It had in its charge, first, a chemical extinguisher; and later, a chemical and hand rail force pump, which is still in use by the new fire com-

pany organized in 1900. The large fires that are remembered now are: The Rowley & Hitchcock hotel, about 1854, located on the site of the Krebsbach property, lot 8, block 2, recently purchased by Mrs. R. E. Dickinson; of the Alter store building, probably in the fall of 1874, on the present site of J. B. Ferguson's store, and that of June, 1875, which burned Thomas Allwood's store buildings, Hammer & May's double building and V. Weber's shoe store on, and south of the present site of German & Friedman's large store; the burning of Daniel Hitchcock's steam mill in 1884; of A. C. Sutherland's grain elevator in 1893; and of the Rock Island & Peoria depot on March 11, 1902.

The first store in Princeville was kept by Elisha Morrow on block 9, probably lot 8, in a little red frame building. This was the first frame in the village, and was covered with siding cut from native logs with a cross-cut saw. William C. Stevens and his brother Amos, were in a hurry to have the store started, and spent three weeks making the siding. Elisha Morrow was no relation to the other well known Morrows, but was a brother of Amos Stevens's wife. The next store-keeper was William Coburn, in a small building on lot 7, block 2. He sold out his goods to one Ellsworth, who in turn sold to W. C. Stevens. Mr. Stevens—to "hold the village together," as he said—kept store in the front room of his residence. He would take orders for handkerchiefs and various articles, and then drive to Peoria, getting the goods that were ordered and only a few others. Other very early merchants in the Coburn store building were Greenleaf Woodbury, Myron Prince, Rowley & Hitchcock, and J. W. Gue. Mr. Gue died May 21, 1852, from Asiatic cholera, the only death ever known

to have occurred from that disease in this neighborhood. His wife, Jerusha T. Gue, continued his business in the east one of the store rooms on lot 1, block 18, now occupied by Blanchard & Sons.

About 1851 a man by the name of Gray commenced a grocery and notion trade, but soon abandoned it. In the summer of the same year Eldridge & Parker built an up-and-down board store building on lot 1, block 17, where the Park Hotel now stands. Among the business men during the decades of 1850, 1860 and 1870, were Thomas Allwood, John T. Lindsay, A. G. Henry, D. W. Herron and George W. Emery, drugs; Hiel Bronson and John H. Russell, groceries; Bohrer & Ferguson and Charles and Joseph German, hardware; Hammer & May, furniture; Isaac Bohrer, grower of Osage Orange hedge plants; John Alter, A. G. Persons, G. W. Hitchcock, Day & Hitchcock, A. D. Sloan, Cecil Moss, Wm. Simpson and Solomon Godfrey, general stores; William DeBolt, shoemaker; Henry Clussman, Weber & Bachtold, shoes; John E. Hensler and J. L. Blanchard, lumber.

The hotel business started in Princeville with Seth Fulton's tavern, a log building on block 9, probably lot 3, built in the '30's. He kept the first tavern in Peoria, and came from there to Princeville. His Princeville tavern, "The Traveler's Home," was a "two-roomed log house—one of the rooms above the other," with a lean-to, also of logs. William Coburn, in 1840, built a part of the "Rowley & Hitchcock" hotel on block 2, and called it the "Rising Sun." Myron Prince, Thomas Myers, G. Woodbury, Cyrus Beach, a man named Blue, John Moore, Rowley & Hitchcock and Ashford Nixon all kept tavern here—Rowley & Hitchcock erecting a large addition, with

hall above, the building having burned when occupied by Ashford Nixon. A few years later Sanford M. Whittington erected the present building, a much smaller one, on the same site, for hotel purposes but, so far as learned, it has never been used for a hotel.

The site of the present Arlington House, lot 5, block 11, has been used for hotel purposes ever since 1848. Captain John Williams kept tavern in the E. Russell house from that year to 1855. In the latter year William Owens bought the entire south half of the block and replaced the dwelling by a larger hotel building. After conducting the hotel for eight years he sold to John Baldwin in 1863. James Rice became landlord in 1865, and continued until 1889, except such times as he leased to John G. Corbet, Thomas Painter, Lucius Wilkington and James Rice, Jr. Mr. Rice sold out in 1889 to Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Washburn. On the corner to the south, the present site of Conklin's store, was a hotel run at different times by Solomon Bliss and G. W. McMillen. R. P. Cooper built, for a hotel, the house now owned by Mrs. Elizabeth Bigg, which was then on lot 3, block 17, the site of David Kinnah's present residence. W. G. Selby, about 1869, built the two-story part to the building on lot 1, setting the Eldridge & Parker store to the south of its old location for an "L." He first conducted an implement store and later, with Mrs. Selby, operated the Eureka Hotel. After Mr. Selby's death, Mrs. Selby conducted the business, recently as the "Park House," until the spring of 1902, when she leased the building for the same purpose to Miss Katie Schneider.

One industry that flourished in Princeville before the days of steam factories and cheap machinery elsewhere was wagon-making. When Daniel Prince came

back from Missouri in 1842, to collect some old debts, he took home with him a wagon made by John Lewis and ironed by Ebenezer Russell. Later wagon-makers and wood-workers were Beach & Benton (possibly before Lewis), McMillen & Persons, J. T. & J. H. Russell, Williamson Vancil, Wayne Dixon, Joseph German and Aaron Moffit. The Russells and J. L. Blanchard (part of the time in partnership), occupied a large three-story factory built by McMillen & Persons, on the site of the present village hall, with blacksmith or iron shop to the east, and large warehouse to the north. Later, J. A. & O. S. Pratt conducted the blacksmithing part, and Moffit & Dixon made the wood-work of wagons.

Blacksmiths, worthy of mention as old settlers, are Ebenezer Russell, Wm. Owens, Allen & Griffin, Davis Bristol and Nathaniel Mitchell. Ebenezer Russell was the first blacksmith and secured a free lot from Mr. Stevens as the "first artisan" of his trade to come to the town. William Owens spent his life in this village from 1844 to 1902, in his prime playing an important part in the material advancement of the village, and, in his venerable age, wielding the sledge vigorously and industriously—always highly respected. Nathaniel Mitchell was a fine workman of iron and steel, and had a passion for gunsmithing—so much so that he "would make horse-shoeing wait any time to repair a gun." Other early mechanics were Jonathan Nixon, cabinet and coffin maker, ———— Armstrong, Jehiel Bouton and John Dale, carpenters, John Taylor, mason, and James McDowell, painter.

Princeville's first doctors were Mott, Morrow and Waters. The first two would hardly be called practicing physicians, but would go and attend a neighbor.

Waters was a "water and herb doctor—chiefly water." Dr. ——— Moss was the first regular physician, and Dr. Charles Cutter the next. Dr. Cutter's son writes: "His practice sometimes extended from Lawn Ridge, in one direction, to French Grove in the other; and his meager remuneration, when there was pay at all, sometimes taking the bulky form of corn in the ear, and even of labor in his own fields, as return for successfully ushering into the world infant Princevillians, and for other professional services." The next to come, in order, were Israel G. Harlan, Robert F. Henry, L. M. Andrews, George W. Emery, Watkins Warren, T. E. Alyea, M. S. Marcy, C. H. Wilcox and W. J. Price.

The Postmasters from the earliest time to the present have been as follows, very nearly in the order given, and perhaps with some omitted: Stephen French, William Coburn, W. C. Stevens (at various times), George W. Hitchcock, L. B. Day, John W. Auten, Mrs. Mattie Snediker, M. M. Blanchard, L. A. Blanchard, J. M. Sabin, H. E. Burgess, A. D. Edwards, J. S. Barnum, A. Cowan, Frank Bouton, Marie Henry, H. J. Cheesman.

Peter Auten and George W. Alter established a bank in 1872, under the firm name of Auten & Alter. Mr. Alter dying the same year, Edward Auten became a partner, and the firm has remained Auten & Auten, with no change of partners to the present time. Peter Auten was aged ninety years and seven months on the first day of May, 1902, and is yet clear in mind, though feeble in body. He is the oldest resident of the village, and it is believed of the township.

The People's Bank was conducted by R. C. Henry and W. B. Kaiser from 1892 to 1893 or '94.

The grain and live stock businesses are those which have been an index to the material prosperity of the farmers of Princeville and Akron Townships, and consequently of the business men of Princeville. As is the case with many prairie towns, Princeville's commercial life depends on the farmers' corn, oats, hogs and cattle, and Princeville is in the midst of splendid territory. Shipments from Princeville in the year 1901 were 344 cars of grain and 107 cars of live stock, and the Village of Monica, four miles distant, near the center of the township, probably about the same amount of produce. This, too, is with other shipping towns as close as Wady Petra and Stark, 4 and 5 miles respectively, Duncan $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles, Edelstein 7 miles, and Dunlap 8 miles. The poultry and egg business in Princeville in one year amounts to \$15,000 to \$20,000. Besides the farmers' produce, which many towns rely on for their prosperity, Princeville has a set of enterprising merchants. The general stores agreed in 1896, perhaps forced to do so by the stringent times, to sell for cash only. The resulting low prices, combined with the healthy rivalry and hearty spirit of co-operation, have built up a trade for Princeville that draws from the former territory of Toulon, Wyoming, Elmwood, Peoria and Chillicothe.

The brief article on Princeville Township in History of Peoria County (Johnson & Co., 1880) gives a partial list of Princeville business men in 1880 as follows: F. B. Blanchard, Wm. Simpson and Otto Davison, dry goods; J. H. Russell, Garrison & Fuller and Emmet Illingworth, groceries; Peter Auten and son in banking; Solomon Bliss and D. W. Herron in drugs; C. W. Russell in hardware; Valentin Weber in boots and shoes; James B. Ferguson in jewelry; J. G. Cor-

bet, hotel and livery; Mrs. W. G. Selby, hotel; John D. Hammer, meat market; James Campbell and Hammer & May, cabinet shops; John Ayling, bakery and restaurant; Hitchcock & Voorhees, millers; O. F. Herrick and Geo. Reinhart, harness; B. P. Duffly, attorney; Misses Bouton & Bohrer and Misses Edwards & Godfrey millinery; H. E. Burgess, postmaster.

The business men of 1902 are as follows: M. V. Conklin, Blanchard & Sons, Cheesman Bros., and J. L. Searl, general merchandise; Mrs. Julia F. Middlebrook—"The Golden Rule Store"—dry goods, shoes and notions; G. B. Robinson, clothing; Richard Cox, and Best & Wakefield, grain and lumber; Auten & Auten, bankers; F. B. Blanchard, creamery; D. Kinah, meat market and live stock; A. C. Sutherland estate, meat market; German & Friedman and Minkler & Harrison, hardware and implements; F. E. Prouty and M. Hammer, furniture and undertaking (Prouty, pianos also); J. B. Ferguson, jewelry and bicycles; Will H. Lamb, jeweler and optician; J. C. Whelpley, harness; N. E. Adams, harness and bicycles; Dr. T. E. Alyea, and Dr. H. C. Young (Miss Jessie Porter in charge), registered pharmacists and book stores; Valentin Weber, shoes; Mrs. Lydia A. Washburn, Arlington House; Miss Katie Schneider, Park House; Richard Heberling, and Joseph O. Husbands, restaurants; O. S. Kopp, bakery; Frank Hietter, livery; Dr. W. S. Hicks, dentist; Drs. R. F. Henry, C. H. Wilcox, T. E. Alyea and W. J. Price, practicing physicians; Dr. O. M. Goodale, veterinarian; Wm. Harrington, carpet factory; Goodman & Harrington, A. M. Marlatt and H. C. Miller, barbers; Higbee & Cutler, coal shaft; W. S. Weaver, wholesale poultry; Aaron C. Moffit, wagon shop; J. A. Pratt and O. S. Pratt, C. M. Gillen, R. J.

Nichols, and Thos. McDowell, blacksmiths; Mrs. M. Scott and Mrs. N. Gill, milliners; M. L. Sniff, insurance and real estate; Milton Wilson, insurance and Notary Public; J. H. Hopkins, attorney; F. W. Cutler, insurance and Justice of the Peace; H. S. Yates, life insurance; A. A. Dart, H. D. Fast and K. C. Andrews, publishers of "Telephone;" George I. McGinnis, publisher "Republican;" John W. Miller, transfer and dray; W. M. Keck, local telephone exchange; W. W. Wright, mason and contractor; J. Y. Mendenhall, F. H. Cutler and W. H. Simmons, carpenter contractors; R. J. Benjamin, carpenter shop; W. M. Keck, leader and manager of Band and Orchestra; A. L. Parker, agent A. T. & S. F. Ry. Co.; J. W. McEwen, agent R. I. & P. Ry. Co.; H. J. Cheesman, Postmaster.

Fraternal lodges in the village, with their officers, are as follows:

Grand Army of the Republic: J. F. French Post, No. 153; A. C. Moffit, Commander; E. Keller, S. V. C.; John Wilson, J. V. C.; S. A. Andrews, Q. M.; J. A. Pratt, Adjt.; O. S. Pratt, O. D.; J. M. Yates, Chaplain; James Bane, O. G.; Wm. Wisenburg, Surgeon; John Geitner, Q. M. S.; Hugh Roney, S. M.; M. H. Buck, Delegate; Frank Rotterman, Alternate.

Thief Detective and Mutual Aid Association: S. S. Slane, Capt.; John W. Miller, 1st Lieut.; A. B. Debord, 2d Lieut.; Chas. Taylor, 3d Lieut.; M. V. Conklin, 4th Lieut.; T. E. Alyea, Sec.; Joseph Friedman, Banker.

Princeville Fire Company: F. H. Cutler, Foreman; R. Cox, 1st Ass't-Foreman; C. N. Pratt, 2d Ass't-Foreman; Geo. Coburn, Sec.; Hanford Harrison, Treas.

Modern Woodmen of America, Princeville Camp, No. 1304: F. H. Cutler, V. C.; A. J. Best, W. A.; J.

L. Searl, E. B.; C. F. Harrington, Clerk; F. L. Bobier, Escort; F. E. Coburn, Watchman; Gale Nixon, Sentry.

A. F. & A. M., Princeville Lodge No. 360: J. C. Whelpley, W. M.; J. V. Christian, S. W.; S. T. Henry, J. W.; D. Kinnah, Treas.; J. F. Carman, Sec.; F. J. Wilson, S. D.; W. J. Price, J. D.; W. S. Weaver, S. S.; M. L. Sniff, J. S.; Burt Brown, Tyler.

Order of the Eastern Star, Union Grove Chapter, No. 229: Mrs. Mary Cheesman, W. M.; Burtwell Brown, W. P.; Mrs. Dora Carman, A. M.; Mrs. Anna Minkler, Conductress; Mrs. Hattie Blanchard, A. C.; Mrs. Lena Blanchard, Sec.; Mrs. Lena Harrison, Treas.; Mrs. Chloe Cox, Adah; Miss Jessie Porter, Ruth; Mrs. Clara Kinnah, Esther; Mrs. Lizzie Christian, Martha; Mrs. Nellie Searl, Electa; Mrs. Sarah B. Andrews, Chaplain; Mrs. Mamie Morrow, Organist; Miss Nettie Stisser, Asst. Organist.

I. O. O. F., Diligence Lodge, No. 129: P. S. Dusten, N. G.; F. D. Goodman, V. G.; F. H. Cutler, Sec.; N. E. Adams, Treas.; A. H. Sloan, John Kinnah, M. Hammer, O. S. Pratt, T. E. Andrus, Trustees.

Daughters of Rebekah, Princeville Lodge, No. 351: Elsie Gillen, N. G.; Fannie Cutler, V. G.; Sarah E. Parker, Sec.; Alice Eyre, Treas.; Hattie Debord, Fin. Sec.; N. E. Adams, Deputy; May Dusten, Warden; Sadie Smith, Conductor; Nettie Rowe, R. S. N. G.; Edith Fast, L. S. N. G.; Ella McDougal, I. G.; John Kinnah, O. G.

Fraternal Army of America, Princeville Post, No. 96: Geo. Coburn, Capt.; Mrs. L. A. Washburn, Chaplain; Katie Pratt, Lieut.; W. J. Price, Post Surgeon; Wm. Wright, Corporal; Wm. Wright, Otis Goodale, Trustees.

Princeville Village we have given thus fully be-

cause it is the center of township life. The township has grown in population from 1,335 in 1870, 1,682 in 1880, and 1,663 in 1890, to 1,717 in 1900. The total voting population is nearly 500, and, the required number of 450 having been passed prior to 1896, in that year the township was divided into two precincts, No. 1 embracing a strip two miles in width off the east side of the township, with polling place at Princeville, No. 2 the west four miles of the township, with polling place at Monica. Princeville was raised to be a third class postoffice in 1900, and from it two rural free delivery routes are covered daily, with prospect of more routes in the future.

There are several miles of graveled road, with more gravel being placed each year, largely by donation of hauling, and partly by county and township appropriations. A few steel bridges have been put in each year, as the timber ones have worn out, until now a large proportion of the bridges are permanent ones. In the earlier day the population is said to have been nearly all Democratic. The Republican party started in 1856, when Fremont was candidate for President, but the Democrats were overpoweringly strong then. The recollection now is that the Republicans carried the township by 15 majority in 1860, again in 1864 and at one of the U. S. Grant elections. They also carried it by three majority when McKinley was elected for his first term. The Republicans might carry the township now if they would all vote together, but they are split up, and the result is that the Democrats hold their old time supremacy. The political complexion of the officials, however, has made very little difference with the conduct of town affairs. There have been no disturbing elements in

local elections, and the officials, as well as the remainder of the citizens, have bent their energies to looking after the material interests of the township.

The township officers after the spring election of 1902 are as follows: M. V. Conklin, Supervisor; J. A. Pratt, Clerk; Henry Debord, Assessor; J. Y. Mendenhall, Collector; Archibald Smith, Frank Harrison and Ezra B. Calhoun, Road Commissioners; George Coon and James Walkington, Constables; F. W. Cutler, Justice of the Peace; Sherman T. Henry, R. M. Todd, and A. B. Debord, School Trustees; Edward Auten, School Treasurer.

The township is busy at its farms, its trades, and its shops. It is attending to business, although not following the pace for gold. It cares not for the turmoil, knows nothing of the poverty and thinks little of the sorrow of the city. Here the open-hearted, frank American citizen, the bulwark of our nation, is at home. He may be clad in modest clothes, but he is educated, and has a mind of his own. He appreciates the gentleman in his visitors, and, to such, his hospitality is open; to affectation and insincerity he says, "You are in the wrong place."

With her religion and education, her industry and honesty, her energy and judgment, and her thrift, coupled with her fertile soil, her blue sky, her springs and streams, her gentle rains and protecting forests, with all the beauties of trees and flowers, the singing birds and contented beasts, Princeville is a fair specimen, six miles square, of "The great, the free, the open, rolling West."

AKRON TOWNSHIP

By HENRY C. HOUSTON

Geographically, Akron Township occupies the middle ground in the north tier of townships in Peoria County. Its surface ranges from high rolling land to the level, flat, corn-producing soil. Originally it was covered with prairie grass, excepting a narrow strip of timber along the western border. Two small streams, one in the eastern, the other in the western part of the township, constitute the principal water-courses.

At present no town, village or city stands wholly within Akron. On the west side of the township the corporate limits of Princeville include a strip one-fourth mile wide, and one mile long. Within this territory are found two grain elevators, two lumber yards, the Rock Island & Peoria Railway Company stock-yards, and a number of good residences. The public highway on our east line serves as the principal street through the village of West Hallock. On the Akron side stand the church (Seventh Day Baptist), parsonage, village store kept by E. Wheeler, and Post Office, the cheese factory and a number of residences. The original settlers of West Hallock were largely from the state of New York and were remarkable for their industry, intelligence, sobriety and thrift. Their descendants are maintaining the reputation of the fathers. The new station named "Akron," on the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad, will be wholly within the township, unless its growth greatly exceeds the expectations of its founders.

HISTORICAL AND POLITICAL

The first permanent settlement made was on Section 7, in the year 1831, by Hugh Montgomery. During the same year Daniel Prince and James Morrow settled on Section 31, and Thomas Morrow built a cabin on Section 18. For some years following, the growth in population was not rapid. The new homes were confined to the western part of the township, near the belt of timber. Grandually the pioneers ventured on to the open prairie and opened up farms, where clearing off forests was not the first step in farming. Others seeing the advantage of fields without stumps, and that the prairie farmer survived the winters, there was a more rapid advance in settlement, but it was not until well toward 1860 that all the land was occupied and improved. In fact the census of 1860 gave a larger population than has ever been reported since. The war of 1861-65 called many of our young men from their homes, and when their term of service closed they went west to make homes for themselves. The activity in railroad extension westward at the close of the war opened up thousands of acres of rich farming lands, and many of our farmers who had settled on forty or eighty-acre farms, saw a splendid chance for selling their small farms to their prosperous neighbors, and going on to cheaper land west of the Mississippi. This disposition to sell the small farm at a high price and move on to western land that could be bought at much less per acre, is responsible for the gradual decrease in our population from that time to the present.

During the earlier years of our history, but little interest was taken, or activity manifested, in political matters. Up to the time of the adoption of Township Organization, the doings of this people were a part of the county records and are not available for this article. The first town meeting under Township Organization was held at the house of Ebenezer Russell on April 2, 1850. Simon P. Chase served as the first Moderator, and Richard Kidd as Clerk. At this election 16 votes were cast, and all but three of the voters were elected to fill some township office. Benjamin Slane was elected Supervisor, and to him belongs the honor of being Akron's first representative on the Board of Supervisors. The following year there were two tickets in the field, both having the name of Benjamin Slane for Supervisor, the remainder of the tickets being political. In the town meeting of April, 1854, a move was made for building a town house of the following dimensions: "26x18, 11 ft. high, said building to be located near the center of the township." The same year the house was built, and, until 1866, served the double purpose of school house for District No. 5, and for town meetings. In 1865 the voters of the town, feeling the need of a larger house, voted to join with District No. 5 in the erection of a two-story building, the lower part to be used for school purposes, and the hall above for public gatherings. This arrangement continued until June, 1900, when the town bought the interest of School District No. 5, and moved the building on to another part of the lot.

In politics, Akron has been nearly evenly divided between the two parties, the tenant population ever holding the balance of power. The annual changes in

this class of inhabitants account for the victory and defeat of first one and then the other party, as shown by the election returns. Akron is one of the townships where political forecasts are uncertain. During these forty-five years of political history, the general elections have always been quiet affairs, but many of the town meetings have been veritable political battle-grounds. In the early part of the year 1868, unusual interest was taken in elections, when, between January 25 and April 5, seven elections were held to vote upon many different propositions to aid in building certain proposed lines of railroad. The first six met with a negative vote, but, on the latter date, the result stood: For subscription, 124 votes; Against, 122 votes. As soon as the vote was announced a company of the property holders organized to contest the election. This action threw the case into the courts, and, from the latter part of 1868 to February, 1873, this case, in some form, was to be found in the Circuit or Supreme Court. During this time the "Akron Railroad Case" was entered on the docket of the Circuit Courts of Peoria, McLean, Woodford and Schuyler Counties, and in the Supreme Court at Ottawa. After more than four years of waiting, the Supreme Court handed down a decision that the election was illegal, and that the Supervisor could not be compelled to issue the \$30,000 in bonds voted at that election. In the progress of this trial many distinguished men appeared as counsel. Among these were Judge John Burns and George C. Barnes, of Lacon, Judge Hezekiah M. Wead, Henry B. Hopkins and Robert G. Ingersoll, of Peoria, and Hon Adlai E. Stevenson, of Bloomington. While this case was pending, political lines were wholly disregarded. The issue was "Bond" and "Anti-Bond,"

—the latter being always victorious by large and increasing majorities at each town meeting. In a short time after this decision was rendered, peace was restored, and party tickets and practices were resumed.

The present officials of the township (1902-03) are as follows: H. C. Stewart, Supervisor; Charles A. Timmons, Town Clerk; Alex. Gray, Assessor; James P. Byrnes, Collector; William Pullen, Frank Kraus and George W. Gruner, Road Commissioners; George Rowcliff and Charles A. Timmons, Justices of the Peace; Peter Currey, Constable; George Rowcliff, M. D. Potter and G. L. Runner, School Trustees; Henry C. Houston, School Treasurer.

EDUCATIONAL AND RELIGIOUS

At an early period in our township history the sturdy pioneers set about to provide such educational facilities as their means and situation would permit. The first building for this purpose was built a short distance southeast of the Rock Island & Peoria depot at Princeville. This was used on Sunday as a place of worship, and the remainder of the week as a school room. A few years later this building was burned, and the next school house to be built was near where the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway crosses the public road, one mile east of the west line of the township.

Soon after, the township was divided into three school districts. District No. 1 commenced on the west side, two miles from the north line, thence east in a zig-zag line to the southeast corner of the township. The school house referred to above was in this dis-

trict. District No. 2 and District No. 3 were six miles long and from one to three miles wide. In some of these districts school was kept, for a few months of each year, in some farmer's home. As soon as the township was fairly settled, it was redistricted into nine districts, each two miles square, in which condition they remain at present, excepting where a small amount of territory adjacent to some village has been taken to form a Union District. We now have nine frame school houses, in good condition, with seating accommodations for at least thirty scholars each. Two of these buildings have been erected within the past three years. The bonded indebtedness of these districts amounts to \$1,020. Wages of teachers increased steadily from \$10 to \$12 a month, with board among the patrons in early days, to \$65 per month in 1876. Since then the wages have declined to the present time, when the highest monthly wages reported are \$45. The largest enrollment and attendance was between 1870 and 1880, when there were 345 pupils enrolled out of 409 persons of school age, or 87 per cent of the total. In the report of 1901, 344 pupils are returned between the ages of six and twenty-one, and a total enrollment of 216, or 60 per cent. This falling off is largely due to the superior advantages offered by schools in the city or large towns.

Only two church buildings stand upon Akron soil. One, the property of the Seventh Day Baptists, is located on the east line of Section 24. The other is owned by the Apostolic Christian Church (commonly known as "Amish") and is situated on the southwest corner of Section 3. The Seventh Day Baptist Society was organized September 3, 1852, through the efforts of the late Anthony Hakes and a few others of like

faith and zeal. In 1870, under the leadership of Rev. Wardner, the Society, having become strong in membership and means, decided to build a suitable house of worship. The move met with universal favor, and ere the close of the year they had completed and paid for their present church building, which cost between \$5,000 and \$6,000. Rev. R. B. Tolbert is at present serving this church as pastor. This society has a Christian Endeavor Society and a Sabbath School in connection with its church work.

The Amish church was organized about 1870, and, for a number of years, their services were held at the homes of the members in geographical rotation. In 1880 they erected the building now used as their place of worship. This house is provided with vestibule, audience room and a large and commodious kitchen fully equipped with range, dishes, tables and chairs. Two services are held each Sabbath and between these a simple meal is served in the kitchen. One thing worthy of mention and imitation is the splendid provision made for the comfort of teams driven to church. They have more expensive and a greater number of horse-sheds than are to be found around any other public building in the county. Christian Streitmatter served as pastor from the organization to 1895. Since then the pulpit has been filled by Ludwig Herbold and Frank Wortz, the latter filling that office at present.

The scarcity of church buildings in the township is not a true index of the religious character of our people. Many of our citizens are regular attendants and supporters of churches near the border line in adjoining townships. With two churches at Lawn Ridge, two at Edelstein, three at Dunlap, three at Princeville and one at Stark, our people are well sup-

plied with church privileges, and as large a percentage of our inhabitants are church-going as those of any other country township.

IMPROVEMENTS AND INDUSTRIES

The last half century has witnessed a wonderful transformation in public and private improvements. The sod house and log cabin of the pioneer have given place to comfortable and commodious residences. Around these are to be found large, well-built and well-kept buildings for the protection of farm animals and storage of products. All of the ponds and swamp land that formerly produced nothing but bull-frogs and ague, now annually yield large crops of grain. The mud-road and log-bridges have been, in a great measure, replaced with gravel roads and steel bridges or culverts. At present all the principal water courses are spanned with iron bridges or supplied with steel or cement culverts. We now have fifteen miles of gravel road and the mileage is annually increasing. Our township expends about \$2,000 annually for road repair and improvement.

Our mail facilities have kept pace in the march of improvement. Up to 1859 our people were dependent upon Princeville and Southampton for post office accommodations. These offices were first supplied with a weekly mail, then with a tri-weekly. About 1860 a post office, named "Akron" was established four miles east of Princeville, and T. P. Burdick was the Postmaster. Three years later the office was moved one-fourth mile farther west, and William Saunders was appointed Postmaster, which office he held until 1866,

when the office was discontinued. In 1870 this office was re-established near the center of the Township, with Mrs. Deming serving as Postmistress. About one year later she resigned and William Houston was appointed her successor. This position he held until the office was discontinued. Mail for the Akron office came by stage, which made three trips a week between Peoria and Toulon. After re-establishment the mail was carried daily over the Princeville and Southampton star-route. We now have a rural delivery route from Princeville, covering eighteen miles of road and supplying a large number of our people with daily mail at their doors.

In 1871 the first railroad, the Peoria and Rock Island, entered the township. Since then the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway has been built through the township from east to west near the center. Last year the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad ran a line across our town a half mile west of the eastern border. This road has located a station named Akron near the southeast corner of the township. There are now seventeen miles of railroad in the town, and all but one school district has the benefit of railroad property to help pay school expenses.

Nearly all our inhabitants are engaged in agricultural pursuits, many of them owning the land which they till. These people are industrious, intelligent and enterprising. Very few, indeed, are the persons who call upon the county for aid. Although our voters are loyal to party, they are in no way office-seekers, for, during the past thirty years, not one of our citizens has held any County, State or Federal office. In rich, fertile soil and tillable acreage, in substantial and convenient farm buildings, in intelligent, indus-

trious and peaceable people, in good roads and bridges, in railroad mileage, in Sabbath observance and church attendance, in freedom from litigation and paupers, Akron Township stands second to none in the county.

MILLBROOK TOWNSHIP

BY WILLIAM H. ADAMS

Millbrook Township is located in the northwest corner of Peoria County. The south two-thirds is a rich prairie soil, raising abundant crops of small grain; the north part, along Spoon River, being an argillaceous loam, produces also the finest of blue grass. Owing to the presence of quantities of lime and iron in the soil, the pastures impart a strength, elasticity and firmness to the horses, rivaling the celebrated stock of Kentucky.

Underneath the surface is a porous subsoil varying in depth from one to two feet, which is succeeded by the glacial drift, and this by the coal measures. Vein No. 6, usually about four feet in thickness, occupies an area equal to twelve sections; while No. 3 probably underlies the whole township. The first is reached by drift along Plum Hollow, the latter by a shaft on Section 6, on Walnut Creek. Fine beds of gravel suitable for making roads are found along Spoon River, and shale, suitable for the manufacture of fire-brick, is found in several localities.

The Township is rich in evidence of the dwellings of a prehistoric race. At the confluence of Walnut Creek and Spoon River there appears to have been a large village, which is shown by the finding of a number of stone and flint implements, the presence of funeral mounds, and other usual accompanying evidences of the presence of a large population. On a high bluff between the two streams are traces of an old fort, octagonal in form, the outlines of which are



nearly obliterated by the lapse of time. In the north-west angle is an oblong elevation, sixty-four by forty-seven feet, and six feet in height. An exploration has disclosed the presence of small pieces of galena, copper beads and awls, leaf-shaped flint implements, red ochre, charcoal and faint traces of human bones, all of great antiquity. Twenty rods west of this is a low mound sixty-two by nineteen feet. On Section 4 is an important group of mounds, the first of which is a small round one from the center of which to the center of the second is a distance of thirty-nine feet; thence to the center of the third, thirty feet; thence to the south end of the fourth is fifty feet. The fourth measures eighty feet from south to north, with a cross at the center, thirty-three by twelve feet and two feet high. From the west end of this one to the center of the fifth is one hundred and twenty-three feet. This is a common round mound forty feet in diameter and three feet high; thence to number six is fifty-eight feet. This one is ninety-eight by eighteen feet and two feet high. Thence in a northwesterly direction it is seventy-five feet to still another one hundred and four feet by eighteen feet and two and a half feet high, from the north end of which it is one hundred feet to another one hundred and forty by twenty feet and three feet high. On the top of this grows an oak tree three feet in diameter. An immense number of flint or hornstone chips are found scattered through the materials of which the mound is constructed, the nearest known out-cropping of which is at Burlington, Iowa. This group commences in the valley just above high water mark and extends northwesterly, terminating on a bluff sixty feet above high water.

First Settlers.—William Metcalf was the first white settler. In the spring of 1833 he, with his wife, two children and a boy named Amos McRill, came by wagon from Richland County, Ohio, camping out at night and arriving at French's Grove. That fall he made some improvements on the east half of the southeast quarter of Section 9, 11 N., 5 E., by erecting a cabin and fencing a small field, and in the spring of 1834 moved on to the land. John Sutherland, a native of Pittsburg, Pa., came to Peoria in the year 1834 and bought the lots on which the National Hotel now stands and was one of the original members of the Presbyterian Church, known as the Lowry Church. In August, 1835, he located on Section 32, 11 N., 5 E. He was a man of high moral principles, of unquestioned probity and business integrity, and inflexible in his determination to do right. It is said that, after leaving Peoria, he frequently walked from his home in Millbrook to Peoria to attend church. He, of course, sided with Lowry in his controversy with the adverse party. He died September 30, 1845, leaving numerous descendants, who still reside in that part of the county.

Mr. Sutherland and his family formed the nucleus at French's Grove, around which gathered a community noted for its high moral and religious character. Among others who, by precept and example, added much to the reputation of the settlement for enterprise and thrift, were Daniel and John A. McCoy, John Smith, Sr., John Smith, Jr., and Therrygood Smith, from Richland County, Ohio, settled where Rochester now stands, in October, 1835, a young man named John White cutting down the first tree where the village afterward grew up. The first settlers were mostly

from Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, New York, Scotland and Ireland, and, as a rule, were industrious, enterprising and ambitious to earn homes for themselves and their families. Their influence in the community has given it a character which will distinguish it for generations yet to come.

Rochester.—The site of Rochester was chosen for its excellent water power furnished by Spoon River. It was surveyed on the 13th of July, 1836, by George C. McFadden, deputy under Thomas Phillips, County Surveyor. On the 29th of the same month the plat was acknowledged by John Smith, Jr., before James P. Harkness and recorded in the Recorder's office.

About this time Clark W. Stanton, a carpenter from Rochester, New York, arrived and bought from Smith a half interest in the town site and mill-seat, and in the following spring, bought Smith's entire interest for the sum of \$3,200. The first store to be opened was that of Thomas J. Hurd, of Peoria, who, in the summer of 1836, brought a small stock of goods to the place and opened out in a small log building on the river bank. He was succeeded in a few months by Stacey & Holmes. In the winter of 1836-37 John Smith, Jr., opened a stock of goods, but the ensuing spring sold out to Hon. David Markley of Canton, in Fulton County, then a prominent politician of the state.

Mills—As might have been expected, the utilizing of the water power of Spoon River was one of the enterprises first to attract the attention of early settlers. In those early days the owner of a mill, if a good one, had a real bonanza. Flour and lumber were two of the essentials of life; and people would travel many miles and await their turn in patience

to get a supply of either. It was in the fall of 1836, after the enterprising Clark W. Stanton had purchased one-half of the interest of John Smith, Jr., in the mill-seat, that they, in company, erected the first saw-mill; and so great was the demand for lumber that the mill was kept running night and day. After Stanton had purchased Smith's remaining interest he erected a grist-mill, which began to grind some time in the summer of 1837. People came to it from Prince's Grove, Slackwater, Massilon, Scotland Prairie, Newburg, French's Creek, French's Grove and Lafayette. By adding improvements from time to time, it became one of the most complete and best equipped flouring mills in Central Illinois. Benjamin Huber, who had an interest in it, says that, late in the fifties, the mill would grind two hundred and fifty to three hundred bushels of wheat per day and one hundred bushels of chop feed or corn, and that it was crowded with business. But the march of improvements, with the coming of railroads to other points, sapped it of its business, and it is now going to ruin, part of it having already tumbled into the river.

About 1839 or 1840, Gilbert Arnold built a saw-mill on Section 6 on the bank of Walnut Creek; but this, too, has long since gone out of sight.

In 1856 John Carter, a wealthy farmer, residing in the eastern part of the township, undertook the erection of a grist-mill on Spoon River on Section 3, but being unskilled in mechanical engineering, he was at the mercy of any charlatan that came along calling himself a millwright. Through floods, law suits and ignorance, he was ruined financially. The mill, however, was finally finished and did a fair business but, for the past few years, it has been abandoned.



Education.—The first school house in the township was in Rochester, and built by Dr. John L. Fifield, Clark W. Stanton, Russell Stanton and Jonah Lewis, without the assistance of public funds. It remained until 1867, when it was replaced by a large and commodious brick structure, which still remains. The first school in the township was taught in the winter of 1836-37 by Caleb North in a log house on the southwest corner of the northwest quarter of Section 20, for which he received \$10 per month. Elisha J. Sutherland is probably the only pupil of that school now living. The township is now divided into eight full and two fractional union districts, in all of which public schools are regularly taught. The zealous interest taken by the people in the cause of popular education, is manifested by the flourishing condition of these schools and the liberal taxes, voluntarily imposed upon themselves by the tax-payers, for their support. The school houses are, as a rule, of the most improved pattern and furnished with all modern appliances to secure the comfort, health and advancement in study of the pupil, the cost varying from \$600 to \$4,500. They compare very favorably with those of any other township in the county. Some of the districts, notably No. 2, have fine school libraries.

In the year 1845 Rev. Robert Breese and his accomplished wife, who was a graduate of the celebrated Holyoke Seminary, established a school of high grade in Rochester called the "Breese Seminary." Mrs. Breese was the real principal, her husband devoting his time principally to ministerial work.

Religion.—Constituted as the early communities were, it could not be supposed otherwise than that the promotion of religion would be their first and



chief concern. Accordingly we find that in the summer of 1836 Rev. George G. Sill, a missionary, preached the first Presbyterian sermon in the house of John Sutherland. A church of that denomination was organized at Rochester in the summer of 1838, with sixteen members, Joseph Warne, ruling elder, which was taken under the care of Presbytery in October of the same year. Rev. Robert B. Dobbin succeeded Rev. Sill, but how long he preached does not appear. In 1845 Rev. Robert F. Breece was installed pastor of the churches of Rochester and French's Grove, which he continued to serve until his death, September 2, 1851. The Rochester church was dissolved by Presbytery sitting at Brimfield September 20, 1854, in consequence of the division between the old and New Schools, the New School members having withdrawn and formed another church in Stark County.

The French Grove Presbyterian Church was organized October 20, 1851, by Rev. Addison Coffey, Rev. William McCandlish and Ruling Elder John Reynolds, a committee previously appointed by Presbytery. There were fifteen members and William Reed and George S. Purselle were ordained and installed the first Ruling Elders; Rev. John C. Hanna, a licentiate, was appointed to supply the church one-half of his time and the church at Rochester as often as consistent with his other engagements. Rev. Charles McLuer is now pastor of this church, which is in a prosperous condition, having a good Sunday-school, of which Mr. W. H. Todd is Superintendent.

The Methodist Episcopal Church of Rochester, organized in the year 1836, was the first church organization in the township. Rev. William Cummings

preached the first sermon in the house of John Smith. The original members were John Smith and wife, Therrygood Smith and wife, William Metcalf and an unmarried daughter of John Smith, and John Smith, Sr., was chosen first class-leader. A house of worship was commenced in 1838, which was blown to fragments by a cyclone on May 8th of that year. Through removals and death, the church at one time became almost extinct, but there are now houses of worship at Rochester and Laura, the former being the legitimate successor of the first church, and worshipping in a building formerly belonging to the Congregationalists.

The Methodist Church of Laura was built in the summer of 1889 at a cost of \$1,300 and furnished at a further cost of \$200. The first pastor was Rev. D. D. McComen. The church is connected with the Monica charge, its members numbering about sixty.

The Christian Church at Rochester was organized December 18, 1844, by John W. Underwood, with four members, the first meeting of seven persons having been held in the old school house in November and conducted by Milton King. They began building a house of worship in 1858, but it was blown down by the cyclone of May 8th of that year. In the summer of 1864 they erected another, which cost between \$3,000 and \$4,000. In the course of time, in consequence of deaths and removals, the membership became too feeble to maintain an organization and, a few years since, Jonathan Pratz, the only remaining Trustee, deeded the church building to the Directors of Glendale Cemetery Association, by whom it was repaired, repainted and placed in good condition. It is now used for moral and religious entertainments,

and is free to all approved ministers of the Gospel. From here, after the last sad rites have been performed, the dead are carried forth for interment in the beautiful Glendale Cemetery. A flourishing Sunday-school, under the superintendence of Mrs. M. Stevenson, meets here weekly. The present directors of the Association are William H. Adams, President; W. Winchester, Secretary; S. H. Winchester, Treasurer, and Elder Aley, W. H. Wilcox and Henry Sweat.

The Congregational Church, Rochester, was organized June 30, 1841, at the house of Elias Wycoff, in Stark County, with nine members, the ministers present being Rev. S. S. Miles and Rev. S. G. Wright. After entering into covenant, Messrs. William Webster and N. Wycoff were duly elected and installed Ruling Elders, and Rev. S. G. Wright designated as Moderator of the Session. In 1854 the meetings were held at Rochester, at which time Rev. Charles B. Donaldson was acting as pastor, and at a meeting held April 14th of that year, the name was changed from Spoon River Congregational Church to Elmore Congregational Church of Rochester. During the summer and fall of 1866 was erected a house of worship costing \$2,300, which was dedicated January 22, 1867. The dedication sermon was preached by Rev. W. G. Pierce of Elmwood, who was assisted in the services by Rev. James Wycoff and Rev. B. F. Haskins, the last named continuing to be the pastor for twelve years. From a variety of causes the society ceased to maintain its organization, and the church edifice is now owned and used as a place of worship by the Methodist Episcopal Church of Elmore.

The Church of the New Jerusalem (Swedenborgian) once had an organization in Rochester, the first

meeting having been held at the house of John Smith Jr., on Section 18. At this meeting Rev. John R. Hibbard, an eminent divine of Chicago, made an address. The society consisted of John Smith and wife, Gilbert Arnold, Caleb North, G. P. Wycoff and the Adams and Pulsipher families of Southport. The numbers having been depleted by deaths and removals, meetings are no longer held.

The First Sunday-school was organized in the spring of 1844, Mrs. Breese, wife of Rev. Robert Breese, being the first Superintendent. She was a woman of fine attainments and great force of character, and made the school a success in every respect. Of those who attended this school the following survive: E. J. Sutherland, James Sutherland, Miss Columbia Duim, of Galesburg; Sarah Smith, nee Bodine, Kansas; M. A. Dooley, nee Bodine, Missouri; Mahala Hurd, nee Bodine, West Jersey, Stark County; Aenath Neal, nee Matthews, Peoria, and Irene Abby, nee Stanton.

Commerce.—From 1835 to 1856 Peoria was the market for Millbrook Township. The wheat, corn, oats and dressed pork were hauled there in wagons. Some of the cattle were driven to Chicago. After 1856 Elmwood and Oak Hill, on the Peoria & Oquawka Railroad, became its principal shipping points. After the building of the Buda branch of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, the village of Monica became a market for the eastern part, and Brimfield for a part of the south side of the township. In the year 1887 the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad was located across the township and, in the following year, an elevator was erected at the village of Laura on the line of that road. There are now two large and well

equipped elevators at that place, besides cribs of 15,000 bushels capacity.

The Village of Laura is located on the southwest quarter of Section 22. It was laid out in 1888 by James M. Kellar, who was the first postmaster. John Shaw brought the first stock of goods to the village. There are now three dry goods stores, one hardware and implement store, a blacksmith shop, a chop-mill, a millinery bazaar, a Methodist Episcopal church, two elevators, a lumber yard, two hotels, the postoffice and a very fine and commodious and well-equipped public school building. The inhabitants are a religious and church-going people. The population numbers about 150.

The elevators are operated by C. C. Davis & Co., who shipped from this point in the year 1898, 51,800 bushels of oats; 101,600 bushels of corn; 790 bushels of wheat and 500 bushels of rye. During the same year there were shipped from this station five cars of horses, thirty-five of cattle, thirty-nine of hogs and five of sheep. This statement does not represent all the corn and oats grown in the township, as some from the west side went to Elmwood.

Chase Station is located on the line of the same railway on Section 19, in the midst of a fine agricultural section, inhabited by an intelligent, enterprising and thrifty community of farmers and raisers of stock. There is here a general store, a postoffice and other evidences of an incipient village.

Biographical.—The first child born in the township was a son to Clark W. Stanton, July 6, 1836. It lived only twelve days. This was the first interment in what is now Glendale Cemetery, and the first in the township. The first marriage in the township

took place at the house of Clark W. Stanton, December 15, 1837, the contracting parties being Mr. T. Greeley, a native of Salisbury, New Hampshire, and Miss Chloe A. Barnes, a native of New York. The first physician was John L. Fifield, a native of Salisbury, Hillsborough County, New Hampshire, who came to Peoria March 10, 1838, and soon after located at Rochester. Here he remained practicing his profession until 1845, when he removed to Victoria. He was an eminent and able physician and a gentleman of the courtly manners of the olden times.

The first blacksmith in the township was Jacob Roland, who came in 1836. The first postoffice was located at Rochester in 1845, but was named Elmore, Therrygood Smith being first postmaster.

On account of its desirability as a site for mills, Rochester, at an early day, attracted the attention of immigrants, and soon gave promise of becoming an important point for business. Before the days of railroads, its grist and saw-mills, its wagon-maker and blacksmith shops, its packing house and hotels made it one of the liveliest business places in Central Illinois. Its great misfortune was to have been so located that the railroads did not find it, and being remote from the county seat, it became, in a measure, isolated from the rest of the world, and its business has gradually died out.

JUBILEE TOWNSHIP

BY CECIL C. MOSS

This township is described on the surveyor's plat as Ten North, Six East, is about fifteen miles in a northwest direction from the county-seat and near the northwest corner of the county. The first settlers to locate and acquire permanent homes came in 1835, about fifteen years before the adoption of township organization, settling on or near what is now the west part of the township and at neighboring distance from the little hamlet of Charleston, now the village of Brimfield. A few others scattered themselves on the east side in anticipation of a college being founded by Bishop Chase. The first settlers at that date (1835-40) appeared to be of three classes: First, those who possessed a little money and wished to begin life and establish homes where property would appreciate in value with time and improvement; and others who, having failed in business, or at their first start in life for themselves in the older parts of the country, came to a new country to begin life and fortune again. A few of a third class were hunters and frontiersmen who keep in advance of civilization, and who, when game becomes scarce and neighbors too near their door, sell out and move further on.

Jubilee Township has as great variety of land and as many natural resources as any other part of Peoria County. There are a few sections of prairie land interspersed with what is rather a rough and broken township. Several tributaries of the Kickapoo Creek have their source in or pass through the township, also

the east branch crosses the southeast corner and joins the main stream near the south line. A few white oak, black oak, burr oak and red oak trees, also several varieties of hickory, were scattered over the bluffs and points at that time called by the settlers "Oak Openings," skirting the streams, and on the bottom lands were a large variety of forest trees, including the oaks (black and white), walnut, sycamore, cottonwood, maples (both hard and soft), and different varieties of willow. As the timber on the upland was scattered or in small groves, and that on the bottoms and along the streams much below the general level, the view of the country was nearly unobstructed and presented to the observer a pleasing aspect.

Shrubs and small fruits were found on the open; also some varieties of berries, surpassing in sweetness and flavor those of the cultivated kind, grew in the thickets of timber. Many varieties of grasses covered the ground, furnishing food for the sustenance of numerous varieties of wild game that roved at will over the country, and which, in turn, furnished a large proportion of the provisions for the settlers and their families.

Some of the cabins or homes of the pioneers were of the most primitive kind and rude in construction, built in the usual style of the pioneer log cabin. Some of the frontiersmen, being skilled in woodcraft, or handy with an ax, built houses of a better class. They hewed the timber to a square, dove-tailed the ends at the corners, laid a stone foundation in lime mortar, erected upon it the walls composed of logs fitted together in dove-tail fashion at the corners of the building, and carrying walls, perpendicular and true, as a wall of brick, to the height desired, usually one

story and a fourth, or one and a half. The rafters, hewn smooth, were set at a good slant, with ribs fastened on crosswise, to which shingles, split and shaved by hand, were nailed. Fireplace and chimney were built of stone or brick filled with mortar, as were also the joints of the timber walls. The floors were often laid with boards taken from the boxes in which the people brought their goods, with a wide board for a door, one window of sash and glass for each room—and what more could human nature want?

The few vehicles, tools and agricultural implements were of the simplest design and construction, and were often made by those who used them. Teams of oxen were more generally used than horses or mules, being cheaper and easy to keep at that time. The first breaking of the prairie sod was done with four yoke of cattle, a large plow held in the proper position by axle-lever and wheels, cutting and turning over a sod of twenty inches in width. This work was usually performed in the months of June and July because the tough sod rotted sooner when broken up at that time, besides growing a crop of sod corn and pumpkins the same season. Cradles were used to harvest the small grain, while the hay and wild grasses were cut with a scythe and all stacked by hand. Small grain was threshed and corn shelled with flails or trodden out with horses, until the advent of the little thresher, a cylinder and concave set in a small frame and run by a four-horse sweep power, the straw being raked off by hand. The grain was afterward cleaned up with a fanning mill. Possibly the hardest and most difficult labor which the early settlers had to perform was the construction and maintenance of their fences, the kind in general use being built with rails, the split-



ting of which would occupy the entire winter to make enough to fence a few acres for cultivation. Fenced pasture at that time was unknown, all stock running at large or in common.

The spinning wheel and hand loom were found in many of these cabin homes, where the women folks made the homespun cloth for clothing their families and a carpet for the floor. These primitive outfits and homes did not require much money, as that was scarce and hard to obtain. With the few things that were brought to the country, and such as human ingenuity could contrive, the pioneer had the necessities and a few of the comforts of existence. Such was life in the log-cabin days.

Prominent among the pioneers of the township was the Rev. Philander Chase, Bishop of Illinois, who came to the then West to found what became known as Jubilee College. He settled permanently in 1836 on a part of Section thirty-six in the southeast corner of the township. Erecting a log cabin for himself and family, as did the other settlers, he set about the college work. Securing some funds, partly from friends in England and some from others in the Eastern States, and at times contributing from his own resources, a tract of land was secured, embracing about three thousand acres, more than two thousand of which was in Jubilee Township, and here was located the home chosen for himself. Procuring stones and timber near the site chosen for the buildings on Section twenty-six, the corner-stone of the chapel and school house was laid on the 3d day of April, 1839. The ceremonies on this occasion are thus described by Bishop Chase in his reminiscences or autobiography:

“On Tuesday evening came our dear Samuel, and the Rev. Mr. Douglass; with the latter, a Mr. Jones, from Tremont. On Wednesday, at nine, came the Charleston people; at ten the congregation began to gather; at eleven, came the Peoria folks. Robin’s Nest more than full. Divine service at half-past eleven. The Rev. Mr. Douglass read prayers, and Mr. Chase preached. Music, the best in the world for us. Notice given that the Rev. Mr. Chase would preach at Lower Kickapoo next Sunday, and myself hold a confirmation at Pekin.

“At one o’clock the procession formed at the bottom of the hill. The Rev. Messrs. Chase and Douglass in front; then the foot train; then the Bishop and his son, Philander, in his carriage; then a sequence of carriages and wagons too long to be even conjectured by you. The course of the procesison was directly through the fine lowlands, on dry and very pleasant grounds parallel with the stream, about midway between the bluff and the bank, pointing and aiming at the new bridge, which you know I built in the coldest weather last winter, now finished in the best order. When the procession turned to the right to cross the bridge, I could have a view of the vast extent of the train, and seldom have I been more elated at the goodness of God in giving us favor in the sight of all His people to gather such a multitude (for indeed, in this solitary country, a few hundred may be justly termed a multitude) together to praise His holy name, at the laying of the corner-stone of Jubilee Chapel. As we passed over the bridge, now (on the night before) finished in the neatest order, and looked up and down that beautiful stream, and then went along in solemn pomp over the level and exceedingly fertile and dry

bottom land, in full view of the rising grounds, covered with budding trees, under which we could see the vast pile of stone for the chapel, and people there waiting for our arrival, you may well fancy my feelings. The flush of joy, the throbbing of the grateful heart, ready at every vivid reflection of my painful life, now about to terminate in the accomplishment of this great design, to burst the very bands of its timent. Oh, that you could have been with me at this moment! you, who have shared my woes, to share also in my joys. The day fine, the sky serene, and just enough to remind us of the breath of God in the gentle influence of His Holy Spirit, refreshing beyond the power of language to describe.

“We mounted the rising ground slowly, and at every step looked back on the cavalcade behind. What a sight for a lonely backwoodsman! What an effect it had on me, when I reflected on the purpose for which we were now gathering on the ground together. Philander drove my carriage round to a pile of stones, to give room for all to dismount in order. The whole of the foundation, I found, had been already laid, but the corner, to the level of the first floor of the building. This enabled the eye to realize the plan, which you have seen, of the groundwork of this interesting building. We gathered round the southeast corner, where all was prepared for the present important solemnity. Before commencing I looked around me, and never was a sight more heart-cheering. The crowd were on the heaps of stones, and the friends and musicians were near me. Oh, how sweetly did they smile through tears of joy, as they saw my aged self among them. And when, after the address, we raised our souls in prayer and praise, may we not hope

and believe that unworthy as we were, the God of Mercy and Love looked down upon us through Jesus Christ, and gave us His blessing? It is this which crowns all, and makes the remembrance of yesterday's service and solemnities sweet unto my taste. It has, indeed, left a relish on my moral enjoyments, more exhilarating to my soul than any thing in the course of my whole life. The self-same thing was said by Samuel as we came home; nothing could exceed the expression of his joy."

The erection of the college, with the other necessary buildings soon followed; residences for the teachers, boarding houses for the scholars and workmen, so that in a few years' time, not later than 1859, nearly all of the various industries of the times were represented in the little village of Jubilee and the near surroundings. A saw-mill was constructed on the Kickapoo Creek, two miles south from the college, to which was soon added a flouring mill, with both steam and water power. A store building near at hand was filled with such goods as were used by the early settlers. A blacksmith shop and a shoemaker's shop were added for the convenience of all near by. A small hand printing press was operated in the college building, on which was printed, at short intervals, a small sheet entitled "The Motto." Farming and stock-raising were carried on extensively by the college, which introduced and operated the first agricultural machinery seen in the vicinity; such as McCormick's reaper, Allen's mower, Emory's tread power and thresher. Students soon filled the buildings and the college flourished for a number of years.

The first graduating exercises held at the college occurred on the 7th day of July, 1847, at which five

persons received their degrees in the arts and sciences. A large booth was erected for the occasion, constructed of poles set in the ground and covered with branches from the trees. A band from Peoria City furnished the outdoor music. The exercises were attended by several hundred people, and it was indeed a happy and proud event to the founder of the college. A little knowledge of the work and the difficulties encountered in the building of such an institution, in those early days, may be obtained, when we realize that the stone was first dug from the quarry and shaped, the brick was burned within a few rods of where it was used, and nearly all the timbers were cut and hewed from the native forests by hand. On one occasion (in the year 1842) the father of the writer of this sketch made the journey to Chicago in the winter with a team, bringing from that place a barrel of salt for use at the college and a load of lumber with which to make sash for the buildings. A few of the settlers procured some of the materials for their first homes in the same way.

Township organization was adopted, April, 1850, and the usual township officers were elected. The formation of school and road districts was completed in a few years afterwards, the number of each at the present date being eight—the schools in each district continuing from six to eight months of each year.

Religious services and Sunday-schools were held at various times in several of the school houses, until the building of various edifices for public worship, of which Jubilee has three—the Episcopal, at the College, German Methodist and Lutheran. Five cemeteries situated in different parts of the township give the

unwritten history that many have finished their labors and gone to the other shore. But few of those are now living who purchased their land directly from the Government, and, at this writing, but one is living on the land which was purchased in this way.

For a time elections were held at private houses, or at the residence of the Town Clerk. Elections and town meetings are now held at the Town Hall in the center of the township. The number of legal voters in Jubilee at present is two hundred and twenty-five. Some changes of town officers have been made at every annual meeting, and but few have served the township many years in succession. Three members of the Illinois General Assembly have been chosen from the township, viz.: William Rowcliff, H. R. Chase, and Peter Cahill. As township officers, William Church, H. I. Chase, Gilbert Hathaway, James H. Forney, J. B. Slocum, John Moss, William Rowcliff, H. R. Chase, Richard Pacey, Peter Cahill and Cecil C. Moss, have served as Supervisors. Those having acted as Town Clerk are: David Sanborn, William M. Jenkins, George Radley, Noah Alden, George Paul, William H. Paul, S. S. Stewart, Chas. Hayes, F. E. Coulson, R. H. Van Renslar, George Stewart, F. T. Keefer, L. Hasselbacher, L. S. Barrett, S. P. Bower. Gilbert Hathaway held the office of Treasurer of School funds twenty-seven years, Thomas Pacey and Charles Hayes about twenty years, and L. Hasselbacher is the present incumbent of a few months.

JUBILEE—THE LITTLE PLACE IN THE WOODS

BY RAYMOND RIORDON

Many parents realize this fact—that, at a certain stage of a child's life, he can be better trained and managed at school than at home, if the school is of the right kind. Are you looking for such a school? Then listen to the story-book tale of Jubilee, the Little Place in the Woods, an ancient landmark, as ancientness goes in our raw young country.

Away back in 1837, Bishop Chase, having got his hand in at founding colleges (Kenyon, in Ohio, and another, farther east), came to Illinois, took up three thousand acres of land near Peoria, then but little more than an Indian trading post, and, full of the traditions of his English alma mater, full of zeal for the Church and education, built a little stone chapel and school; and, flushed with the success of his darling project, worked for hard and long, named it Jubilee.

An infant of the Church, it grew to man's age, with varying fortunes like those of many a man, waxed old and hoary, and fell into senile decay. For the last decade or two it was a romantic ruin, where people came to picnic and to carve their names in the soft sandstone walls.

Then, on a summer's day in 1905, came Bishop Fawcett and his helpers, and the result of that visit was a rejuvenated Jubilee. They found owls and bats as tenants, rubbish without end, and desolation everywhere.

But soon the old house awoke from its Rip Van Winkle slumbers to find saws and axes at its vitals. Steam pipes, gas pipes and pipes for city water gave it a circulatory system, and ventilating grates, and fun-

nels in the roof formed the respiratory organs it had always lacked.

"City water" of course means country water. Several old wells, that must be as deep as Spencerian philosophy, for the house stands on a hill, show how the early dwellers got their supply; but now a little red-roofed pump-house nestles down in the valley among the trees, and the engine in it makes the water from a chain of allied springs run up hill, in direct defiance of the old adage which says it can't.

A coat of paint on the wooden trimmings was all that the outside of the building needed, for vines embower it, clinging lovingly to their old friends, the sandstone walls.

Within, there was carpentering and joining, and painting and glazing, and paper-hanging and plumbing, until every thing that could be done was done, and the Bishop said to the children, "Come!"

They came, to the capacity of the building, and more would have come had there been room. Like a Rooseveltian family in a small city flat we were stowed at the beginning of this, our first year, and every available inch was utilized. But a cottage dormitory, begun late in November, sprang up as by a rub of Aladdin's wonderful lamp, to house a certain number of the pupils, and amply relieve the pressure within the old stone walls. This cottage, standing at the top of a gentle slope to the south, commands a view of miles o'er hill and dale, field and forest and running stream, and every window frames a picture to delight a landscape artist's heart. The furniture of the cottage was made by Jubilee boys, in Jubilee shop, the large walnut folding doors used in the early days of the college providing a good share of the material.

Any repairs needed in the carpentering, plumbing or painting line are also done by these youthful workmen-on-the-spot, for boys love to work, and if allowed to work will not be likely to hatch up mischief.

Only four hundred acres of the original three thousand remain, but we find that enough for the children to "turn loose" in; where girls may run and gather roses, of the American Beauty kind that blooms only out of doors, and increase their lung—and food!—capacity. Where boys may dig caves, build rafts, and huts, and chief staff of a boy's life, whoop and hurrah as much as they like, with no signs of "Keep Off the Grass," and no one to say "Don't." In short, where boys and girls alike may have all kinds of fun.

And they have it, except when engaged in business. Their business is school work, and their office hours are six hours a day five days in the week. This time is spent in recitation and in study under the eye of a teacher. There is no evening study, to tax the eyes and overheat the brain, and night work is limited to shop employments, orchestra or singing rehearsals, and mechanical or freehand drawing.

The school room is not the stiff and penal place the name suggests, but a pretty library with soft green walls, adorned with pictures, separated from the next class room by curtains only, and supplied with chairs and tables instead of nailed down desks. The maps and black boards appear when wanted, from a contrivance which at a magic hey, presto! swallows them up again; and the class rooms, when thrown together, make a charming social hall, with hard wood floor that tempts the light fantastic toe.

Twice a week we spruce up and have "small and early" affairs; and the lads and lassies in their best bibs and tuckers are an attractive looking lot.

One evening a week is given to lively games, proper ones only, with teachers supervising or joining in; but some games are permitted on any evening, and good reading is provided without stint.

The dramatic instinct is strong in children, and manifests itself at an early age, as when the little girl pretends she is Mrs. This or That, and walks, and talks and acts like some one else; and the little boy as doctor comes to cure the ailments of the dolls.

It is the purpose of Jubilee to utilize this instinct, to make it profitable as well as pleasant, by visualizing incidents in history, sometimes enacted, impromptu, in class, and sometimes given more ambitiously as a stage performance. Dramatic and operatic pieces are given as often as they can be properly prepared, the rehearsing and simple stage setting being regarded as recreation and done in recreation hours.

Excellence in scholarship is a large factor to be considered in making up the cast.

At the three meal times the family comes together, sitting six at a table, an older person being one of the six, and conversation and laughter help to make good digestion wait on appetite, and health on both.

Little need be said of book work. This is fundamental, and may go without saying: Whatever can be done is done, by the best instructors—not to pour knowledge, willy nilly, into the child, but to arouse his mental powers, awaken his interest and set him to getting for himself that which unless he does get it for himself, will never be of value to him.

We take him from the intermediate grade on up to the entrance to University, and good work must be done; no shirking or evasion is allowed.

But the one basic principle of the school, book

work being an adjunct to the means employed, is character-building. By every possible means we endeavor to exalt character, to instill the spirit of honor, courage, truth. Not only head work, but hand work, is a means to this end. Play is another and most important one. Some of the best lessons a child can get are learned, unconsciously, in play. He is benefited physically, mentally, and morally by entering heartily into games that call for strength or agility, alertness of mind, quick judgment, and co-operation with others.

Now do you see what kind of a school we have, in this historic spot so full of associations of the past and buoyant hope for the future?

It is a school based on the home idea, where, in fresh air and healthful surroundings, with regular hours and simple food, with work and play in just proportions, with all that devoted instructors can do to bring about such a result, boys and girls may be gently, but firmly and surely, led to knowledge, to refinement, and to high ideals.

A school for the development of character, for the preservation of individuality, for the formation of good habits and gentle manners, for the cultivation of hand and heart as well as head.

Was it not Froebel who said, "Come, let us live with our children?" We live with ours, work with them, play with them, with eye single to their well being and improvement.

The course is made to fit the child, not the child to fit the course; and the school is conducted for the benefit of the child, not of the teacher. The individual temperament of each child is carefully considered, and the personality best fitted to influence

him is chosen from the faculty to give him particular attention.

In school work, not what percentage can he make, but what use he makes of his powers, is the basis of reports. If he does his best, "S," or "Satisfactory," is his mark. If he has not done his best, even though his percentage may rank higher, he gets "Unsatisfactory," or "U."

Our aim is, not to turn out rows of children, like pins in a paper, all with the same size heads and sharpened to the same point, but to bring each one to his own highest and best.

We hope to send these children from us better in every way. Not a sudden transformation, like that of the skinflints and curmudgeons and hard-hearted fathers in the old-fashioned Christmas tales, but a gradual growth like that which Nature gives, we working as a loving gardener works, pruning and cutting back if need be, gently twining here and there, and shedding the sunshine of affection and praise, until the buds of promise show.

No new thing, this. We of this day prate much of Education, with a capital E, and fancy we are its sole inventors and patentees. But Plato said, in some Athenian Jubilee of long ago: "If you follow Nature, the education you give will succeed without causing you trouble or perplexity, especially if you do not insist upon acquirements precocious or overextensive."

It is this Platonian theory, to follow Nature, or to run with and not against her, that we try to put in practice in this little community set by itself, far from the madding crowd, making its own society, and living all for each and each for all, a miniature Democracy.

HALLOCK TOWNSHIP

MATERIAL FURNISHED BY DANIEL HAKES AND JOHN G. SPICER

The geographical designation of this township is "Township 11 N., Range 8 E. of the Fourth Principal Meridian." It contains a large extent of bluff and timber lands, a belt of which runs through its center from north to south, varying in width from nearly four miles on the north, to a little over one mile at its southern boundary. The twelve western sections, are almost entirely free of timber, and are of a most excellent quality of land. The southeast corner, situated on LaSalle Prairie, is also almost entirely clear of timber, and is splendid farming land.

The first settler in this township, without doubt, was Lewis Hallock, who came to it about the year 1820, and, after some months roving about among the Indians, took up some land and built a cabin in what is now called Hallock's Hollow. He was a native of Long Island, had left home when a young man, wandered westward and, for many years previous to his appearance in Peoria County, lived among the Indians in Wisconsin and elsewhere, gaining a livelihood by hunting and trapping. At the time of his settlement he was a single man, and about 1825, lived for some time with a Frenchman called Osier (known in Peoria by the name of Ogee), who was the Government interpreter to the Pottawattomie Indians, and had married into the tribe. In the winter of 1829, he married a Mrs. Wright, a daughter of Hiram Cleveland, and brought her to his cabin in the hollow. By

her he had one child, a girl called Clarissa, who afterwards married Henry Robinson. Hallock died, April 1, 1857, on his old farm, at the age of sixty-one years. He was a man of sterling character, upright and honest in all his dealings.

About 1825, settlers from the East began to drop into the district. Simon and Aaron Reed came from Jackson County, Ohio, in November of that year, and they were closely followed by Moses and Samuel Clifton, Francis Thomas, Joseph Meredith, Cornelius Doty, Resolved and Hiram Cleveland, Gersham Silliman and family and William Wright. In 1830, Joel Hicks and family and Jeriel Root, with his sons Erastus C. and Lucas Root, came. The greater part of these settled near the north end of LaSalle Prairie. In 1830, Joseph Meredith settled on Section 12, and kept a small tavern for the accommodation of the stage-drivers and travelers on the main road between Galena and Springfield.

In the last days of June, 1836, Roswell Nurse, with his son, Isaiah Nurse, and Ebenezer Stowell, came to the township on a prospecting tour. They started from Chenango County, New York, walking to Buffalo and coming thence to Toledo by water, where they again took the road and traveled to Hallock Township on foot, with rifle on shoulder and all their equipments in one knapsack. Taking due note of the fine land lying yet unclaimed in the township, they pursued a zigzag course toward Quincy, still prospecting, but found no land more inviting, and, on arriving, forthwith entered their land in the Government Land Office at Quincy, and returned to take possession. They found at this time no one living north of Northampton, but, in the fall of the same year (1836), Erastus Root took

up his residence on Section 3, now occupied by his son, Lorenzo Root.

The winter of 1831 was an exceptionally severe one all over the West. During the winter two men, strangers to the settlers, named Dr. Franklin and McMillan, with six yoke of oxen and two sleds, loaded with goods and bound for Prairie du Chien, stopped at Simon Reed's and, after a stay of about a week, during which they built another sled and hired a man by name of Cooper to go with them, started some time in the month of January, and were soon caught in a terrible northeast snow storm, which filled up their track and caused them to lose their way. Night overtook them when out on the prairie near Boyd's Grove, and they turned the oxen loose and tried to reach Boyd's on foot. Two of them perished, and the third—McMillan—got there next morning badly frozen. Eleven of the oxen were frozen to death, and one came to Meredith's.

The deepest snow ever known in the township fell during this winter. It was three feet deep on the level, and the drifts were in some places fifteen to twenty feet deep. The cold was steady and intense. The deer and wild hogs died in great numbers, and the prairie chickens and quails were almost entirely destroyed.

The Black Hawk War in 1832, found the settlers in this district not only prepared for self-defense, but to take the field against their treacherous foe. In April, of that year, Thomas Reed, Edwin S. Jones, Lucas Root, James Doty, Elias Love and Simon Reed, volunteered in Abner Ead's Company, and their services were accepted. Simon Reed was detailed to act as teamster, and served until the close of the war.

James Doty was killed in the battle of Sycamore Creek or Stillman's defeat, May 14. The others named were at the front for thirty days, and afterwards served as "rangers" on the frontier between Peoria and Rock River, until they received their discharge at the close of the war. Previous to this outbreak the Indians were quite numerous and very friendly. The Pottawattomies had three towns in or near the township—one on the land now occupied by Emory Stillman, in Medina Township, one at Smith's Springs between Rome and Chillicothe, and one on the Senachewine creek, not far from the bridge.

The first mill built near the township which the settlers in the northern part could easily reach, was that built on Senachewine by William Moffatt, on the northeast quarter of Section 18, Township 11 North, Range 9 East, one and a half miles east of Northampton, about the year 1834. The first mill built in the township, and the only one that ever did any amount of work, was erected in the year 1838 by Thomas Ford, on the northeast quarter of Section 13.

Prior to the adoption of township organization, this settlement formed part of LaSalle precinct. Simon Reed was the first Justice of the Peace, and was appointed to the office prior to 1828, and Cornelius Doty was elected Justice in the fall of 1831. This election took place at the only polling place in LaSalle precinct, covering nearly one-half of the northern part of Peoria County, on Section three of Medina Township.

In 1850 township organization was adopted, and the township received its name, out of compliment to its oldest settler, Lewis Hallock, by vote of the citizens. The first town meeting was held at the house of Reuben Hamlin in Northampton, on Tuesday, April

2, 1850. William Easton was chosen chairman pro tem. and Charles Barker, Clerk, after which Charles Barker was elected by ballot Moderator of the meeting, and Robert Will, Jr., Clerk for the day. After the polls closed the following officers were declared elected: Walter S. Evans, Supervisor; Erastus C. Root, Assessor; Lyman Robinson, Collector; Isaiah Nurse, Joel Hicks, Simon Reed, Commissioners; Jesse Jenkins, Overseer of Poor; Munson Hinman, Town Clerk; William Easton and Nathaniel Chapin, Justices; Augustus Barton and Eliphalet Russell, Constables.

The present Town Officers are: Alfred Tallett, Supervisor; J. W. Gullett, Town Clerk; M. B. Vars, Assessor; William E. Wideman, Collector; Loren N. Gallup and M. M. Burdick, Justices; Thomas Burns, A. T. Bristol and W. J. Burns, Commissioners; J. R. Kidd and I. A. Barton, Constables; William Wideman. Thomas Keach and William A. Hervey, School Trustees, and Thomas Vars, School Treasurer. Mr. Vars has been Township Treasurer in charge of the school fund since October, 1875. He is a retired farmer and lives in Edelstein.

VILLAGES

The Village of Northampton was laid off on Section 13, by Reuben Hamlin and Mr. Freeman in July, 1836. The first house therein was also the first erected in the township as a tavern. It was built in the winter of 1835-36 by Reuben Hamlin, and was kept as a public house by him for many years. He came from Northampton, Massachusetts, and he named the village, of which he was the founder, after it. Aaron

Reed was the first settler near the site of the village, and his old log cabin was replaced by a house which stands beside the bridge, near the south end of the village.

Nathaniel Chapin, a native of Massachusetts, was quite a prominent resident of the village about 1840. He held the office of Justice of the Peace.

The population of the village is, at present, but little over 60, and it contains one good general store, kept by Mr. P. E. Phillips, who is also Postmaster. It has also a harness shop and a brickyard owned by Thomas Goodwin. It has also one Methodist Episcopal Church.

The Village of Lawn Ridge stands upon the boundary line dividing Peoria and Marshall Counties, and has a population of about 200. Nathaniel Smith (later a resident of New York State, but now deceased) was one of the earliest settlers in it. It has two churches—a Methodist Episcopal and a Congregational—whose congregations are drawn about equally from the two counties.

Located on the Peoria side of the line, William Even runs quite an extensive agricultural implement, carriage and stove business; Fred Green operates a meat market; William Nickerson is postmaster and sells patent medicines; Newton Brag succeeds his father in the blacksmith and repair shop, and Ed. Kruse is the popular proprietor of the hotel.

Edelstein, a flourishing village, situated on the northwest quarter of Section 18, has sprung up since the location of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad through the township. It was founded in the year 1887. It was at first intended to locate it on the south side of the railroad, but it was later determined

to locate it on the north side on land owned by Samuel Burns. In the year 1887, Mr. A. J. Ramsey erected the first store building south of the railroad, but afterwards removed it to the north side. During the same year Robert A. Green, of Lawn Ridge, erected a grain elevator and did a thriving business in grain and stock for about three years, when he sold out to E. E. Kendall and A. R. Cline, who were succeeded in March, 1894, by the present proprietor, A. J. Speers, whose business in grain, coal, tile, seeds and stock during the past year has amounted to over \$130,000, and his shipments of grain have been 366 cars. In 1894, Messrs. Kendall and Cline built another elevator northwest of the depot, near the site of one that had been burned, which they operated successfully until 1898, when they were succeeded for one year, by J. W. Cole, who sold out to A. J. Hawley and J. A. Speers. During the construction of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad in 1901, from Nelson to Peoria, this elevator was removed to Akron, a station on that road three and one-half miles southwest of Edelstein.

In 1888 Mr. E. W. Houghton established a successful trade in lumber, lime, stone, brick and cement under the management of Mr. Rollin L. Houghton who, in connection therewith, established the Exchange Bank of Edelstein, and continued to manage both branches of business until his death in May, 1900. There is no bank at the present time.

In 1889, Mr. J. A. Potter, of West Hallock, built the store now occupied by J. H. Johnson, which was managed by his son Anthony Potter for about one year, after which it passed in rapid succession through the hands of several owners until, in the year 1896, it came into the possession of the present proprietor, Mr.

Johnson, who does a flourishing business amounting to \$20,000 per year.

One of the leading business men of Edelstein was C. Y. Brayton, a nephew of N. B. Curtiss, banker of Peoria, who began business in the fall of 1888 by building and opening a general store, which he continued to operate with an extensive stock of goods until his death, which occurred in March, 1900. Since that time the business has been carried on by his widow and son under the name of Mrs. C. Y. Brayton.

In 1888, Mr. F. W. Rotterman established the business of dealing in hardware and carriages in connection with the trade of a tinner. This he continued until 1898, when he was succeeded by F. A. Sager, whose business was so prosperous that, in 1899, he added a stock of farm machinery and harness. His business in 1900 amounted to \$22,000.

M. J. McDonna operates a blacksmith, wagon and general repair and paint shop.

In 1891, Mr. W. R. Peck became owner and proprietor of the drug business in the village, and in 1893 he was appointed Postmaster, since which time, notwithstanding the political changes in the administration, he has served the public in both capacities to their entire satisfaction.

J. G. Spicer & Son have, for many years, been operating a creamery about one mile southeast of the village. Of the quality of the butter produced by them it is only necessary to say that, at the Columbian Exposition of 1893, they secured the highest score on their four months' exhibit, in token of which they have a valuable medal and a beautiful diploma—the highest award made to any exhibitor in this line. They have also carried off many first prizes at State Fairs

and other exhibitions of like products. In 1900 they handled over 800,000 pounds of milk, for which they paid over \$8,000. Their butter is largely used on the tables of many of the leading families of Peoria. In connection with the creamery they also have an artificial iceplant intended principally for their own use but from which they also supply the village and surrounding country with ice.

Edelstein has one hotel which, since 1896, has been carried on by Mrs. L. V. Weber, who is doing a successful business.

The Knights of Pythias have a Lodge, organized in 1892, which has now a membership of 32, and own the two story building known as the Knights of Pythias Hall.

The Modern Woodmen of America have a Camp organized in December, 1892, which is in a flourishing condition with a membership of about 55.

West Hallock.—The hamlet of West Hallock is about one-half in Akron Township, opposite Section 10 of Hallock Township. It contains a cheese factory, which has been in operation for some years, mentioned in the history of the township in which it is located. It also has a good general store and postoffice, and feed mill, blacksmith and machine shop under the ownership and care of Mr. N. S. Burdick. On an adjoining lot Alfred Tallett operates a woodworking, general wagon and repair shop, with a planing mill attached, deals in wind-mills, pumps, etc., and does a general gas and steam-fitting business.

CHURCHES

The Congregational Church at Lawn Ridge was organized by Rev. Owen Lovejoy, who was then a settled minister in Princeton, Illinois, in March, 1845. The original members were six in number, viz.: Ebenezer Stowell and wife, Nathaniel Smith and wife, and Dr. A. Wilmot and wife. The organization took place in a small brick school house in Hallock, which had been built about seven years before. A preacher was shortly afterwards hired and, with help from the Home Mission, regular services were maintained until about 1848, when, owing to the rapid settling up of the prairie around Lawn Ridge, the place of meeting was transferred there. At first they met in the small school house, and some years later built a small church which they continued to occupy till about 1876, when the present fine building was erected, at a cost of about \$6,000. Rev. J. H. Runnells, is the present pastor.

Lawn Ridge Methodist Episcopal Church—The church which is known as the Lawn Ridge Methodist Episcopal Church, was built during the summer of 1856, on the land of David Shane, Sr., about three miles south of Lawn Ridge, and it was dedicated by Rev. H. Summers, under the name of Mount Hedding Methodist Episcopal Church. The leading movers in its erection were David Shane, Sr., Isaac Weidman, and John Ferguson. About fourteen years later, it was decided to move it to Lawn Ridge, which was done in the spring of 1871, and the church was rededicated July 22, of that year, under its present name. It is a plain, substantial, but well-finished building, with a

seating capacity for over 200 people. The present pastor is D. C. Martin.

Seventh Day Baptist Church.—The only church in the village of West Hallock is that of the Seventh Day Baptists. In the year 1845, Elder Anthony Hakes, of Berlin, New York, came to the Township, and was followed, some three years later, by his brother, Daniel Hakes, and John Simpson. In due time accessions were made to their number, and meetings were held from house to house until the erection of the Academy building, when it was made their place of worship. On the 3d day of September, 1852, at the house of Elder Anthony Hakes, the church was organized by Elder Stillman Coon, with fourteen constituent members, Elder Coon being the first pastor. The society grew yearly in numbers, and, in 1871, it was found expedient to erect a larger and more comfortable building for their sole use. The present house was accordingly put up in the summer of that year, at a cost of \$5,500, the whole of which was pledged by the adherents and friends of the church before anything was done towards its construction. The building is a neat and substantial one, and can comfortably seat 250 people. Elder A. Hakes was the founder of the church, and for many years preached to the Baptists at Union and in the surrounding country. His ministration at funerals of all sects and classes was especially popular. He was ordained to the gospel ministry in 1856 and had charge of the congregation for some years. Rev. R. B. Tolbert is the present pastor, who has been with them since November, 1899. A live Sabbath School and an enthusiastic Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor are well maintained each Sabbath.

Hallock Methodist Episcopal Church.—The first Methodist sermon preached in this district was by Rev. Milton Smith, a local preacher, about the year 1839, in a log cabin which stood on the site afterwards occupied by the house of Isaiah Nurse, on Section 3. In 1841 a two days' meeting was appointed to be held in the brick school house then in process of erection at Hallock. From this time forward regular preaching was held every two weeks till 1849, when a successful joint movement was made by the Methodists and Congregationalists in the vicinity for the erection of a church, in the summer of that year. Robert Will donated the land now occupied by the church, school and graveyard. The church was used on alternate Sundays by the Methodists and Congregationalists, until the meeting place of the latter body was changed to Lawn Ridge, and it is now and always has been, a free church, used for the meetings of all denominations. The first cost was about \$800, and when it was finished and completely seated, some seven or eight years later, near \$1,200. It had a seating capacity of 200. This church having become unsafe, it was decided by the quarterly conference, held in October, 1897, to erect a new one. A mass meeting of the citizens was called; N. L. Robinson, A. M. Root, S. R. Stowell, J. L. Root, J. S. Gallup, Frank Harlan and H. H. Nurse were appointed a building committee, funds were raised and, by the next spring, the building was commenced under the direction of R. B. Beebe, the contractor. It has a seating capacity of 250, cost \$2,500, and was dedicated September 4, 1898, by Rev. F. W. Merrill, Presiding Elder of the Peoria district. It is one of the neatest churches in this part of the county. Rev. D. C. Martin is the present pastor.



The Union Baptist Church is located at Union, on Section 26, and its congregation was formerly connected with the Chillicothe Baptist Church. It was organized, June 19, 1858, with thirteen members, as follows: Thomas B. Reed, Sanford Reed, Amy Silliman, Simon Reed, Walter S. Evans, Sarah Kirkpatrick, Mary Baggs, Francis Reed, Nancy Sprague, Levi Sprague, C. Reed and Amy Reed. In July of the same year, Elder Anthony Hakes was chosen pastor, and preached once in two weeks. The church was erected immediately after the organization by the Methodists and Baptists of the neighborhood in common, and was, in consequence, called the Union Church. It was occupied by these societies in common until 1873, when the Methodist interest was bought out by the Baptists and the building assumed its present name, but no regular services have been held here for some time.

The first religious services in the village of Edelstein were held on October 21, 1891. Through the efforts of P. M. Nelson, President of the Peoria County Sunday School Association, and Rev. John Bliss, of Princeville, with a few families in and around the village, a Sunday School was organized with a full corps of officers, Rollin S. Houghton, now deceased, being Superintendent. The Sunday School continued regularly with occasional preaching by Rev. Stephen Burdick, of the West Hallock Seventh Day Baptist Church, and Rev. Charles E. Marsh, of the Lawn Ridge Congregational Church, until the spring of 1893, when Rev. Marsh commenced regular preaching services in connection with the Sunday School until such time as a church might be built, the services being conducted in the public hall. In March, 1894, a series of revival meetings were conducted by Rev. H. L. Wanna-

maker, of the Congregational Church Missionary Society of Peoria, which resulted in the formation of a Congregational Church composed of twenty-seven members coming from several denominations. Steps were at once taken to secure money to build a new church. The corner-stone was laid August 4, 1894, and the church dedicated December 30th of the same year, by Rev. James Tompkins, of Chicago, Rev. Stephen Burdick, of West Hallock, and Rev. Charles E. Marsh, of Lawn Ridge. The church cost \$2,800, substantially all paid before dedication. Rev. Charles Marsh was the first pastor. He continued to fill that position until July, 1900, when he resigned, since which time several ministers have supplied the pulpit, the present one being Rev. R. B. Tolbert, of West Hallock. A good Sunday School and a Christian Endeavor Society as auxiliaries to the church work, are regularly maintained, both having a good attendance.

The St. Matthew's Catholic Church was commenced in the year 1900 under the supervision of Rev. C. A. Hauser, pastor. With the liberal donation left by the late Matthew McDonald, the church building was erected at a cost of \$2,350. There are at present about thirteen families in connection with the church, the membership being about fifty. Rev. C. A. Hauser was succeeded by Rev. C. P. O'Neill, the present pastor. The building committee who superintended the erection of the church were John McDonnell, Michael McDonna and Thomas Burns.

SCHOOLS

The first school ever taught within the present bounds of the township was located on Lewis Hallock's farm, and was taught during the winters of 1829 and

1830, by Lucia Root, daughter of Jeriel Root. The first school house built in the district, stood near Joel Hick's place on Section 32. It was erected in the fall of 1836, and was removed about eight years afterwards to the Hallock farm. In the northern part of the township a little school was taught during the summers of 1839 and 1840, in a log cabin where the house of Isaiah Nurse was afterwards erected. Fiducia Bliss was the teacher. In 1841 the first school house, in what is now School District No. 1, was erected. It was 18 feet square and was built of brick. Sarah Fosdick was among the earliest of the teachers. The present school house in that district was built in 1856, and stands near the southeast corner of the southwest quarter of Section 3. It is well fitted up and can accommodate sixty children. In School District No. 5, the first school was taught in an old log cabin, which stood a little south and east from where O. M. Miller's dwelling was afterwards erected, and was used for that purpose about the year 1851. Joseph Gallup was then its teacher. In 1856 the present school house was built. School District No. 6 was originally composed of portions of Peoria, Stark and Marshall Counties, and was reconstructed with its present limits in 1860. It was the last school district to be organized in the township. The first public school was built about 1857, at a cost of about \$800, and, in 1866, to accommodate the growing wants of the district, the present school house was erected at a cost of about \$1,400.

In West Hallock District, the structure now occupied as a public school was erected in the fall of 1856 as an academy, and was occupied as such for about five years, when the district was formed by a special act of the Legislature. It then fell into the hands of

the School Trustees, and has since been conducted as a public school.

The school house in District No. 4 was erected about 1870, and stands on Section 32. It was the first school in that section.

The citizens of Edelstein, feeling the necessity of better school privileges in the village than they would have under existing conditions, the friends of education, after several unsuccessful attempts, succeeded in 1894 in having established the Edelstein School District No. 7, and, in the same year, erected a school house at the cost of \$1,000. The Board of Directors then consisted of J. G. Spicer (President), E. E. Kendall and Thomas Burns. Since then James Shane and Mr. A. J. Speers have succeeded Mr. Kendall. At the time of the organization of the district there were only twenty-three children of school age; there are now 89 of whom 53 are in daily attendance at the school.

RADNOR TOWNSHIP

BY NAPOLEON DUNLAP

Looking over the past for a period of sixty years we are filled with amazement at the changes that have taken place. Then the deer and wolves were plenty and prairie chickens were common game. Steam power was in its infancy, the telegraph and the telephone were unknown, electricity as a mechanical power had not been dreamed of, and weeks, or even months were consumed in traveling a distance now accomplished in a few hours or days at the farthest. Of this the early settlers of Radnor, who came mostly from New York, Massachusetts, Ohio, and other Eastern States, had a rich experience, many of them coming overland by emigrant wagons, consuming weeks in making the journey.

One of the earliest, if not the first settler in the township, was Erastus Peet, who came in 1834. His little daughter of four years, having become lost, and a fire having swept over the prairie in the night time, she perished in the flames and her body was discovered the next day. Robert Cline came in 1835, from Oswego County, New York, and, after remaining two years at Hale's Mill, settled on Section 35, and two years later on Section 13. He was killed by lightning on April 21, 1849. William Gifford, who came from Barnstable, Massachusetts, in 1836, erected the first frame house, on the south half of Section 28. Moses Harlan settled on Section 22 in the same year. He was County Commissioner in 1838, and two years in the Legislature, 1838-40. His son, George B. Harlan, settled on Sec-

tion 2 in 1836. He was a Justice of the Peace for some years and a member of the Board of Supervisors for one or two years, besides holding other local offices. William Knott settled on Section 26 in the same year; also John L. Wakefield, who came from Butler County, Ohio, to Peoria County in 1834, but settled on Section 18 in Radnor in 1836. Aaron G. Wilkinson and his brother, Abner Russell, Calvin Blake, Charles, Richard and George Wilkins, Anson Bushnell and his brothers, Horace and Alvin, Thomas Shaw, James ——— and his brother-in-law, Griffith Dickinson, all came about the year 1837.

About the same time Alva Dunlap came on a prospecting tour from Sandy Creek, Oneida County, New York, and, having become satisfied with the place, returned the next season (1838) with his family. Leaving his home on the 11th day of August, with his father and mother, five children and a sister, he, with his brother, the writer, embarked at Sackett's Harbor on a little schooner of about one hundred tons for Chicago. Leaving his mother and sister, with a daughter residing at Chicago, for another trip, the rest of the party proceeded in wagons, which had been previously engaged, arriving at their destination on the northwest quarter of Section 14 on the 11th day of October, and took up quarters in a frame house, 16x24 feet, which Alva had erected the preceding summer from lumber hauled from Hale's Mill, then recently erected. Their nearest neighbor was an Englishman named John Jackson, a bachelor of about 30 years, with a lad of about 14 years named George Scholes, "keeping batch" on the northeast quarter of Section 15. Jackson had arrived in 1837 and had broken part of his land, on which he

raised a crop in 1838. Ira Smith, a native of Hampden, Maine, who had been a sea captain, had also come in 1837, and had paid Chloe Case \$50 for a claim on the northeast quarter of Section 3, which he entered and afterwards, in 1849, sold to Adam Yates for \$3,000. He was a very worthy man, an old-line Abolitionist, and believed in the Golden Rule. He removed to Peoria and went into the lumber trade.

J. J. Hitchcock, with his aged parents, had also settled on the northwest quarter of Section 3 in 1837. In the winter of 1838 he went with Alva Dunlap to Chicago, and assisted him in bringing the remainder of the goods, together with his mother and sister, to the new house.

The country, at that time, was an unbroken prairie, and what houses there were were scattered along the streams and in the edges of the timber. On the larger prairies one could travel a whole day without seeing a house. The scarcity of timber for fuel, fencing and building purposes was a serious matter with the early settlers, and, if one could get hold of a piece of timber land, he was considered fortunate; and woe to him who having secured one would go off without leaving some one to guard it, for on his return he would likely find it all stumps. No one thought lumber could be shipped here in sufficient quantities to supply the needs of these vast prairies. Coal had not yet been developed to any considerable extent. Saw mills were erected along the streams, where there was timber and water with sufficient fall to obtain power. But the lumber secured in that way was very unsatisfactory for building purposes. When the Osage Orange was introduced for hedges, it was thought to be a great advance in the matter of fencing; but now, since the

introduction of barbed wire, the Osage Orange is no longer planted and farmers would be glad to be rid of what they have. Jonathan Brassfield took two loads of wheat to Chicago and brought back finishing lumber. Several others tried the same experiment, but no one went the second time. When the canal was opened in 1848 it brought great relief to those living within reach of the river. Timber is much more plentiful now than it was sixty years ago. Then it was short and scrubby on account of the fires; after that was cut off and the fires kept away from the new growth it became thrifty. Coal became the principal fuel and the inhabitants ceased, in a great measure, the use of wood for either fuel or fencing. But for the last few years many prefer to have the land for farming purposes, and are cutting off the timber, selling the wood so cheaply that the people are again using it for fuel.

As the population increased the deer disappeared, but the wolves remained and are not yet entirely extinct, an occasional one venturing out from its hiding place. As corn fields increased the prairie chickens also increased, for a time into large flocks, and became very destructive to the corn, which, according to the custom of the country, was left in the field over winter; but when the prairies had become settled up and their nesting places invaded, they began to decrease in numbers until now they are nearly extinct. The rattlesnake was a common pest in breaking up the native sod, and was often encountered by the plowman. They were not considered dangerous, as they made their presence known by their rattle and were easily disposed of. Cattle instinctively avoided them, but were sometimes bitten by them, which caused severe swell-

ings, but seldom, if ever, death. They disappeared when the land became cultivated.

After the opening of the canal, pine lumber in quantities began to make its appearance, the coal banks began to supply fuel and the people began to lose their fear of settling upon the broad prairies. The big prairie team, with four or five yoke of oxen and the huge breaking plow, rapidly turned over the native sod; houses rapidly sprang up in all directions and a wave of prosperity seemed to have struck the country. The light steel plow introduced by Tobey & Anderson, of Peoria, took the place of the wooden moldboard and heavy cast-iron plow brought from the East. The reaper took the place of back-breaking cradle; the Brown corn-planter did away with planting by hand; the thresher, with its simple cylinder throwing straw, chaff and grain out together, displaced the flail and the tramping-floor, only to be displaced in its turn by the separator, which also took the place of the Nurse or Proctor fanning-mill formerly in use; the single shovel-plow, doing duty with one horse traveling first upon one side of the row and back on the other, was superseded by the two-horse riding or walking cultivators. The complete outfit for husking corn was one team, two men and a boy taking five rows, the team, and wagon treading down the middle one, which was the boy's share to pick up.

The first reaping machine known in Radnor—and perhaps in the county—was owned by Alva Dunlap, and was built by George Greenwood of Peoria. It was so constructed as to throw the cut grain directly back the width of swath, which had to be bound up before the next swath could be cut. It did clean work and he used it for several years in cutting his own and his



neighbor's grain. It was built about the year 1846, only seven years after Cyrus H. McCormick gave the first exhibition of his reaper on the farm of Joseph Smith, in Augusta County, Virginia. The next was a McCormick—the grain being raked off on one side. This was followed, in a few years, by the self-raker, and in about twenty years by the self-binder. Through these improvements the hard labor of eight men was done away with, and the women of the household were relieved of the labor of boarding a large number of men during the heat of the harvest time. Before that time harvest hands would begin in the South, where the season was earlier, and work their way northward as the grain ripened. These traveling men were thrown out of employment by the self-binding reaper.

About the year 1839 experiments were made by Aaron Bushnell, J. J. Hitchcock and Alva Dunlap in making sod fences, consisting of a ditch two and a half feet wide by the same in depth, and an embankment on the side protected by the sods cut from the ditch. But the theory would not hold good in practice, for the cattle, getting into the ditch, would have a fine frolic in tossing the sods out of the place with their horns and so destroying the fence.

One of the serious problems with the farmers was to get their products to market. In the spring of 1841 John Jackson built two flat-boats and loaded them with ear-corn and bacon, for the purpose of coasting along the Mississippi and selling to the planters and negroes. As was customary, they were floated with the current. They had long sweeps or oars to guide them and keep them off the snags. To build them two large trees would be found (generally hack-



berry), which were hewn flat for the sides, and planks spiked on the bottom, the ends sloped like a scow. The roof, or deck, was made of boards sawed thin enough to bend across the boat, and thus make an arched roof. The crews of these famous boats were John Jackson, Elisha Barker, John Peet, Warren Hale, William Harlan and Napoleon Dunlap. The two latter went as far as Natchez, but, concluding they had had enough of the life of boatmen, they begged off and returned by steamer, working their way by helping to take on wood at the wood-yards along the way.

The first election in Radnor was held at the house of Alva Dunlap in 1842. It was then Benton Precinct, composed of Radnor and Kickapoo Townships. An election had previously been held in the woods in Kickapoo, north of where the village now is. At this election in Radnor, Smith Dunlap, father of the writer, was elected Justice of the Peace, and continued to serve in that capacity until the adoption of township organization. The first annual town meeting of the Town of Benton (afterward named Radnor) was held at the residence of Jonathan Brassfield. Alva Dunlap was chosen Moderator and Nathaniel T. A. Shaw, Clerk; Jonathan Brassfield was elected Supervisor; Nathaniel T. A. Shaw, Town Clerk; Lewis Harlan, Assessor; Jonathan Brassfield, Griffith Dickinson and William Wilkinson, Commissioners of Highways; Phineas R. Wilkinson, Collector; Lorennas Shaw, Overseer of the Poor; George B. Harlan and Smith Dunlap, Justices of the Peace; John M. Hendricks and Phineas R. Wilkinson, Constables. Fifteen dollars were appropriated for contingent expenses and fifty dollars for road purposes.

The only Post Office in the township before the building of the Rock Island and Peoria Railroad, was kept by Enoch Huggins on Section 35. The mail was carried from Peoria three times a week. This office did not continue long. There was a mail-route from Peoria by way of LaFayette, through Medina and Akron. but most of the people received their mail at Peoria until the building of the railroad. In the first settlement of the country the wagon-road took a straight course from Mt. Hawley to Princeville; but, as the prairie became settled, every one would turn the travel around his own land, but was anxious to have it go straight through his neighbor's. An attempt was once made to open up a State Road from Peoria to Rock Island, but the opposition to its going diagonally through the farms was so great it had to be given up.

Mary J. Peet, who was burned to death on the prairie, was the first person to die in the township, and Henry Martin the next, on November 10, 1836. John Harlan was the first child born, October, 1836, and died February 1, 1847.

The first school was taught in the summer of 1840, by Miss E. R. Dunlap, in a little frame house built on the northwest quarter of Section 13 in 1837 by a man who committed suicide, and it was never occupied except for schools or other public purposes. Horace Bushnell taught a singing school in it the same summer. The next summer Miss Dunlap taught in another vacant log house on the northwest quarter of Section 13. The first attempt to organize the school system was in December, 1841. Charles Kettelle, School Commissioner, then surveyed and laid off the School Section (16) into forty-acre lots, and had them appraised and offered for sale. Cyrus W.

Pratt bid off three of these lots for \$170. He made no payments, but gave a mortgage for the price with interest at twelve per cent. After making two or three payments of interest he failed to make any more and the land reverted. About the same time trustees were appointed and Peter Auten was made the first School Treasurer. At their first meeting, April 4, 1842, they laid off the town into six districts and resolved that, inasmuch as the money in the treasury was depreciated paper of the State bank, and believing that it would recover its former value, the Treasurer should loan the same at par with interest at twelve per cent—conditioned that money of the same bank might be received in payment of the loans.

The same winter, or in the early spring, a log school house was built on Section 15, in which Anna McKnight and Sarah D. Sanford taught, and William Gifford in the winter of 1843. The school house was then moved to Section 22, on the wood-lot now owned by George B. Taylor. This was as near the center of the town as the condition of the ground would permit. Within a radius of two miles there were ten or twelve large families. They were in the woods or near the edge of the timber. Their cultivated fields were along the Kickapoo bottoms or near the edge of the prairies—the object at that time being to get where they would be sure of having timber. There was much strife in locating the school houses, and they were frequently moved to get them to the most central point. In 1842 there were three school houses built; the one just mentioned, a small frame on Section 2, and a log one on the northeast quarter of Section 1. The first teacher in the last named was Catharine J. Jamison, who began on May 10, 1842, her school con-

sisting of seven Blakesleys, five Wakefields, four Chapins, three Van Camps, two Gordons, two Rogerses, one each of Hall, Gilkinson, Hatfield and Slaughter. The Directors who signed her certificate were Parley E. Blakesley and Joseph Chapin. The next term was taught by Deborah L. Woodbury, the same year. In 1843, a man by the name of Elisha Barker taught in a log school house on Section 22, built in 1842. In the winter of 1843-44 William Gifford taught in the same house.

Early in the spring of 1842 a small frame school house was built on the southeast quarter of Section 2 by voluntary labor, of lumber sawed at the mill of Robert Bette's and William Bruzee on the creek in Section 23, a dry place now for a saw-mill. Miss Margaret Artman taught there in 1842, her patrons being Ira Smith, J. J. Hitchcock, Anson Bushnell and his sons Alvan and Horace, Samuel and William Secly, William Moore, O. L. Nelson, Ira Hitchcock and—— Goodell.

At the January (1843) meeting of the Board of Trustees, schedules of the following teachers were approved and the Treasurer ordered to pay them their respective shares of the interest arising from the School, College and Seminary Fund, viz.: District No. 1, Margaret Artman; District No. 2, Catharine J. Jamison and Deborah L. Woodbury; No. 3, Anna McKnight, Sarah D. Sanford and William Gifford, Jr. William Gifford received for three months, \$40; Deborah L. Woodbury, for two months, \$10.50; Catharine J. Jamison, for two months, \$10; E. B. Dunlap, for three months, \$24. The custom was to "board around."

The office of Trustee having now become elective, Griffith Dickinson, Horace Bushnell, Joseph Chapin, Jonathan Brassfield and Nelson Bristol were the first to be elected, Trustees before then having been appointed.

A new valuation of the lands was made in 1845, when all the lots except four were valued at \$1.25 per acre, two of the others at \$1.50, and one each at \$1.75 and \$2.00. Between that time and May 22, 1847, they were sold at various prices, realizing, in the aggregate, \$1,471.10.

No sooner was the free-school law in operation than the Trustees began to act under it. On April 26, 1855, they ordered the Treasurer to levy a tax of ten cents on the hundred dollars for general school purposes, and five cents for paying teachers and extending terms of school. The valuation of real estate for 1854 was \$141,430, and of personal property \$54,592; total, \$196,022. This was the first attempt to sustain free schools by taxation.

The Village of Dunlap was laid out on June 12, 1871, on Section 11, by Alva Dunlap. Dr. John Gillette erected the first building in 1871. It stands opposite the railroad depot, and is now owned by B. C. Dunlap. It is a thriving village of three hundred inhabitants and is situated on the Rock Island & Peoria Railroad. It has six stores, two grain elevators, three churches and an Odd Fellows' Hall, and a graded public school building, erected in 1899 at a cost of \$4,000. District No. 4, in which it is situated, has one hundred children of school age, of whom over eighty were in attendance in 1899.

The history of Prospect Presbyterian Church, now located at Dunlap, furnished one of the marked fea-

tures, not only of Radnor Township, but of Peoria County. In the year 1848 and 1849, a number of families from the Pan-Handle section of what is now the State of West Virginia, settled in the townships of Akron and Radnor, and at first connected themselves with the church at Princeville; but, owing to the distance of four to nine miles, and the fact that others were following them from their old home in the East, they decided to ask the Presbytery for a separate organization, which request was granted. Rev. Addison Coffee of Peoria, Rev. Robert Breese of Princeville, and Elder Henry Schnebley of Peoria, as a committee of Presbytery, met the congregation on June 8, 1850, in the school house, where they had been accustomed to worship, when the new church was organized with fifteen members, namely: From the Princeville Church, Joseph Yates, Sr., and Mary his wife, John Yates, Sr., and Eleanor his wife, Samuel Keady and Eleanor his wife, Thomas Yates and Mary his wife, John Hervey and Sarah his wife, and Mrs. Margaretta Yates; from the Church of West Alexandria, Pennsylvania, David G. Hervey and Jane his wife; and from the Church of West Liberty, Virginia, Adam Yates and Sarah his wife. Their first house of worship was a frame building, 36x48 feet, costing \$1,400, erected on a lot containing about seven acres donated by Adam Yates, was dedicated in June, 1854. When the Rock Island & Peoria Railroad was built, and the village of Dunlap was laid out one mile south of the location of the church, the meeting place was removed to the village and a new church edifice erected at a cost of \$5,100. The lots on which the church stands are 150 feet square. The old church was torn down and the land on which it stood added to the church

cemetery and the same is now known as Prospect Cemetery. In 1867 a parsonage was purchased at a cost of \$3,000; but in 1878 it was sold and a new parsonage erected at a cost of \$1,700 on lots 100x150 feet adjacent to the village, donated by David G. Hervey. The following are the names and dates of pastorates of those who have served the congregation: Rev. David Hervey (stated supply), 1850-51; Rev. John Turbitt, 1853-55; Rev. Thomas F. Smith (stated supply), 1856-57; Rev. George Cairns, 1858-63; Rev. J. A. E. Simpson (stated supply), 1864-66; Rev. A. S. Gardner, 1866-71; Rev. John Winn, 1872-77; Rev. Silas Cooke, 1877-90; Rev. H. V. D. Nevius, D. D. (supply), 1891-92; Rev. Harry Smith, 1893-96; Rev. R. C. Townsend, 1896 to the present time (1902).

Besides these the congregation was served for short periods by Rev. Robt. R. Breese and Rev. James K. Large. Two died in the service: Rev. James K. Large, March 18, 1858, and Rev. George Cairns, June 25, 1863. Their remains repose side by side in Prospect Cemetery; and near by is the grave of Mrs. Mary Winn, wife of Rev. John Winn, the pastor, and daughter of Mrs. Phoebe Hinsdale Brown, the author of that exquisite hymn,

“I love to steal awhile away,” etc.

Mrs. Brown died at Henry, Illinois, October 10, 1861.

The spiritual power which this church has exerted cannot be better shown than in the number of its members who have gone into the ministry, including the following: Rev. George Dunlap, 1875; Rev. Thomas C. Winn, Missionary to Japan; Rev. William Jones, California; William Y. Jones, the son of the latter,

Missionary to Japan; William Ayling, Kansas; Minister of the United Brethren denomination; Franklin Brown, Idaho—six in all.

From June 8th, to 10th, 1900, this church celebrated its semi-centennial anniversary in a series of exercises of the most interesting character, a full account of which has been published in a small pamphlet of seventy-four pages. This publication, abounding as it does in rich historical facts and sprightly reminiscences, is worthy of a permanent place in the historical relics of the county.

The Methodists held services in this township as early as 1840. Before there were any school houses the circuit riders held meetings at private houses. Their first church was built in the year 1860, about one mile west of where the village of Alta now is. It was called Glendale Church. Its principal members were Wesley Smalley and Geo. Divilbiss. In its pastoral relations it was connected with Kickapoo and Mount Hedding, in Hallock. After the village of Alta was laid out, the church was moved to that place, which is situated in Medina Township, the pastor making his home in Kickapoo.

In 1885 the church was built in Dunlap under the direction of the Rev. Webber, and the pastoral residence was changed to Dunlap. The church at Dunlap still remains in connection with the church at Alta. It has a membership of about one hundred.

In the year 1865 the Methodists built a church called the "Salem Church," on the northwest quarter of Section 16, near the school house. The leading members of this church organization were Wesley Strain, A. J. Gordon and John Jackson. After ten or fifteen years it was abandoned for want of support on

account of removals and deaths. The house was sold and another built on Section 18, near the line of Jubilee Township, called Zion Church, which is now connected with Kickapoo in its pastoral relations. The leaders in starting this church were William Rowcliffe and Daniel Corbett. The membership is small.

The Catholics have a strong church in Radnor, called the St. Rose Catholic Church. Their church edifice was erected in the fall of 1879 by John Horine. The congregation contains many of the leading citizens of the place.

ESSEX TOWNSHIP.

Mr. Isaac B. Essex, in whose honor this division of Stark County was named, settled here in 1829, removing in that year from Ft. Clark, now the City of Peoria, where he had taught school the preceding winter. The whole of what is now Stark County was then a wilderness, and the forest presented its huge trees without underbrush, with Indian trails stretching out in every direction. The Indians left Spoon River and Indian Creek soon after this and moved some miles westward, returning later for a few years.

Isaac Essex built a cabin on the south eighty of the northeast quarter of Section 15. In due course of time other settlers came and located farther up Spoon River, as the streams and timber were then considered the most desirable portion of the country. A little to the east of him were Greeley Smith and his father, who came from Ohio in 1830. Next was J. C. Owens, the first justice of the peace in the county, living on what is now the Edgar Miller farm (1906). Benjamin Smith and Major Silliman were also close by. Farther up the river in turn were Thomas Essex, David Cooper and Coonrad Leak. Still farther on was old man Leak who built a saw and grist mill on Spoon River southwest of Wyoming, "where you could get your clapboards sawed, corn cracked and wheat mashed." A freshet in 1836 washed the mill away, but traces of it could be seen within a few years. Still up the river were Sylvanus Moore, on the place long known as the General Thomas homestead; also

Jesse Heath who kept a little store near by, and John Dodge. Up and west of here, near the Methodist camp grounds, lived Wesley and Peter Miner, and a little northwest of Wyoming, Samuel Seeley.

Starting west of here on Indian Creek and following the course of that stream toward the south were Samuel Merrill, Major McClennehan, Stephen Worley and Benjamin Essex. Henry White lived on what is known as the Peter Sheets or A. J. Simmerman farm, and John Marrow on the James Ballentine farm (now owned by A. J. Scott). Charles Pierce and Thomas Winn were others, the latter building a cabin in 1834 in the old Spoon River fort on Section 16. Jarville Chaffee came here from Michigan in May, 1834. Thinking to get up something extra he split the logs, whitewashed the inside and had an upstairs, reached by a ladder. This was the entire settlement on Spoon River and Indian Creek from 1829 to May, 1834. Dr. Ellsworth came from Ohio in the fall of 1834, and was the first practicing physician in the county. Henry Colwell came from Ohio in 1837, and was the first stock auctioneer in the county.

Mr. Essex, as soon as there were a few neighbors, had been appointed postmaster, and the first within the present limits of Stark County, the office being called Essex. In 1834-5 there was a weekly mail route established from Springfield via Peoria to Galena. This route ran along the bluffs of the Illinois River above Peoria up to Hennepin, to Dixon and on to Galena. Upon this the early settlers were entirely dependent for their mail matter. There was some sort of an office, or "hole in the bluff," just below the present town of Northampton in Peoria County, and a man by the name of Hicks was postmaster. From

this office under the bluff the mail was carried on the volunteer system, the settlers taking turns at carrying it once a week. It was usually carried in a meal bag and could have been in the crown of a man's hat. "Galena Miner" (as Mr. Harris Miner was often called), generally carried it on foot. The Essex office at this time was an old boot box, set up on pins driven into the wall, high and dry, and above the reach of children in the cabin of Mr. Essex. In 1833 only two newspapers were taken in the county, one by Mr. Essex and the other by Benjamin Smith. At this date two weeks were required to get a paper from Springfield, and a proportionately longer time to get intelligence from Washington. This office was transferred to Wyoming in 1839, where William Godley was appointed postmaster. A number of Pennsylvania families had settled there, and while they did not care especially for the county seat, they did want the postoffice. The coming of the railroad (now the C., B. & Q.) brought with it the village of Duncan and with the village returned the postoffice. In addition to Duncan and part of Wyoming, Slackwater and Stringtown had up to this time formed the leading settlements of the township. Moulton on its northern border and Massilon on its western border long since passed away and their sites were plowed over by the modern husbandman.

In 1832-3 the question of establishing a school in the Essex settlement was brought before the legislature and on March 1, 1833, an act was approved creating Isaac Essex commissioner of the school fund and authorizing him to sell Section 16. On February 4, 1834, this section was sold for \$968.70. The day prior to this sale, the voters assembled at the Essex cabin and

elected Sylvanus Moore, Greenleaf Smith and Benjamin Smith, trustees. Moses Boardman was elected in 1835. Madison Winn in his paper of 1886, says: "On the fourth day of July, 1834, the people came together for the purpose of building a school house. The site chosen was near the northeast corner of the northeast quarter of Section 15, in Essex Township. The building was planned to be twenty feet square, and all went to work with a will, some cutting, some hauling, some making clapboards, and others building. By noon it was built up waist high; and there coming a shower, we arranged the clapboards over the wall and underneath ate our Fourth of July dinner. The first day the walls were built up to the roof, which was soon covered, and from Leak's mill slabs were brought for seats. A post was driven into the ground and a slab laid on it for a teacher's desk, while mother earth was the floor. Adam Perry commenced school about July 15th, with about thirty scholars. (This Perry received \$55.50 for teaching the winter school of 1834-5 for three months. Sabrina Chatfield, later Mrs. Hilliard, received \$13.00 for a three months' summer school in 1835, and Mary Lake \$6.34 1-4 for six weeks' teaching during the fall term.) In the fall the house was finished—a floor put in above and below, three windows sawed out, the east one having a light of glass in it, the other two covered with cloth, cracks plastered up with yellow clay, holes bored in the walls in which pins were inserted and slabs laid on for desks, and a sod chimney built. Sabrina Chatfield, better known as Grandmother Hilliard, of Lafayette, now taught, and was the first female teacher conducting a school in the county. Next were Jesse W. Heath, Mary Lake, Joseph R. Newton, William Samis and

James Dalrymple. At the close of Mr. Dalrymple's school in March, 1839, he gave a school exhibition, the first in the county. The first Sabbath school was organized in this building by one Seigle, in 1837. The Methodists held meetings here for some years, coming from Lafayette and Princeville, bringing their dinners and staying all day.

On June 30, 1840, twenty-three votes were cast in favor of organization for school purposes. In December, 1856, Cox's school house, Essex Township, was completed on ground donated by Joseph Cox. In 1872 the districts were readjusted and increased to ten in number, thus settling the district boundary lines, which had been a troublesome question previously and which have remained thus settled with practically no change to the present time. They have recently been renumbered, however, by the county system.

The earliest church in the township was the Methodist, its establishment being contemporary with the settlement of the Essex family in 1829, although a class was not regularly organized until 1835. In these days the school house was, of course, used as a place of meeting. Rev. Wm. C. Cummings writes: "In 1835 I was appointed by Bishop Roberts from the Illinois conference of the Methodist church to (what was then) Peoria Mission. It extended over a large territory—nearly embraced now in Peoria and Kewanee districts, being parts of the following named counties, viz.: Peoria Fulton, Knox, Stark and Marshall. I preached at Father Fraker's, whose name is of precious memory in the churches, and rode from there over the ground where Toulon and Lafayette now stand, though they probably had not then been thought of. Not far from the present site of Toulon lived Adam Perry, whom I appointed

class leader of a small society in the Essex settlement, and where we held a quarterly meeting in 1835, at which W. B. Mack and Stephen R. Beggs were present. The circuit preachers who attended here from 1830 to 1839 are named as follows: S. R. Beggs, 1830; Rev. Wm. Crissay, 1831; Zadoc Hall, 1832; Joel Arlington, 1833; Leander S. Walker, 1834; J. W. Dunahay, 1836; W. C. Cummings, 1835-7; A. E. Phelps, 1837; S. R. Beggs, 1839. After Mr. Beggs' last term the history of Methodism drifted to Toulon and Wyoming, until the M. E. church of Duncan was organized in 1888. Rev. F. W. Merrill came from Princeville for the purpose and Mr. Ezra Adams superintended the building of the church.

The Methodists were soon followed by the Latter Day Saints, who made some converts here, and, it is said, led some members of the Essex family and others equally prominent, away from their allegiance to Methodism.

United Brethren Church of Essex Township, or Pleasant Valley church, was regularly organized in 1867, and the present house of worship erected that year. The Pastors have been: 1867, B. C. Dennis; 1868, J. L. Condon; 1869, F. J. Dunn; 1871, John Wagner; 1872, P. B. Lee; 1874, Geo. H. Varce; 1875, A. Norman; 1877, J. K. Bradford; 1879, A. A. Wolf; 1881, A. W. Callaghan and J. S. Smith; 1883, J. Lessig; 1885, E. O. Norvill; 1886-9. W. E. Rose, and later in succession, Reverends John Weigle, Kosch, Schomp, Valentine, Brusio, Lindsay, O. Marshall, Kemp and Spurlock; until recently there have been no services at this church, although Sunday school is still held.

The Methodist Protestant church, adjoining the Sheets cemetery, is of more recent organization, hav-

ing been in existence only some ten years at this writing.

Pleasant Valley church lot and cemetery were platted by Edwin Butler in August, 1873, on two acres in the northeast corner of Section 32, given by Conrad Smith. The Sheets cemetery, the oldest in the township, had been in existence long before this. There is also the Schiebel cemetery near the school house, on what was formerly the Sewell Smith farm.

The town of Duncan was surveyed by Edwin Butler for Alfred H. Castle in June, 1870. Monroe, Adams and Jefferson streets running north and south; Main, Washington and Galena streets running east and west; but block one forming the extreme northwestern part of the village and all Galena street with northern extensions of Monroe and Adams, have been vacated.

The Essex Horse Company was organized in April, 1858, on cavalry plan, but not for military purposes. It was to compete with the other townships for the agricultural society's premium for the best twenty-six horses. H. Shivvers presided, with J. W. Drummond, secretary.

In 1834-5 the Indians cultivated their cornfields along Camping Creek and near its mouth; but their old village on the borders of the Josiah Moffitt farm was then deserted, and their council-house in ruins. Even the mimic fortress built at the close of 1832, to commemorate the war, was then going to decay. A new era was introducing itself, which, within fifty years, and much more within seventy-five years, effected a total change in the customs and manners of the people, as well as in the country which the pioneers found a wilderness. Throughout this state there cannot be found a more beautifully located township

than this of Essex. Within its limits many of the early settlers made their homes; there also, that natural locator, the Indian, built his wigwam, and squatted, so to speak, in the midst of plenty. The streams of the township offered the lazy red men their wealth of fish, the forest its game, and the soil its wild fruits, herbs, and in some cases corn.

VALLEY TOWNSHIP.

This township was given its name by the commissioners in 1853. The prairie character of the soil and its location at the foot of the highest divide in the state, as that from Lawn Ridge to Wyandot is said to be, suggested the name "Valley." The streams of the township are small and have comparatively few trees along them. This perhaps accounts for the fact that the early settlers, who were always seeking the timber, did not settle this township as early as the neighboring one of Essex by some fifteen or twenty years. Mud Run courses through the south side of the township and Camp or Camping Run is farther north. Camp Run received its name because it started in the grove of trees now Camp Grove, which used to be the "camping grove" of the Indians. These streams form at once a good water supply and drainage system. Deep wells afford a never failing supply of excellent water and this in connection with a most fertile soil, tend to render Valley one of the finest agricultural townships in Illinois.

The township was organized for school purposes in 1847, and on July 17th, five voters assembled at David Rouse's house and elected David Rouse, William Cummings and Z. G. Bliss, trustees. At this time there were only nine families, comprising forty-one children, in the township. In 1851, twenty-three of the twenty-seven voters then in the township, petitioned for the sale of the school section, which was granted. On January 21, 1856, the trustees organized by appoint-

ing Charles S. Payne, president; W. D. McDonald, treasurer; J. S. Hopkins, secretary, and Wesley King. In March, 1856, the large districts were subdivided into six school districts, each two by three miles. In April, 1864, R. S. Kilgore and Peter W. Van Patten petitioned for the formation of two new districts; and a ninth district has since been added. The southeast corner of the township also furnishes part of the land for a union district with Marshall county.

In pioneer days this district was a part of Spoon River precinct. The first town meeting, under the law of 1851, was held on the 4th day of April, 1853, at the brick schoolhouse in what now is school district No. 7. Z. G. Bliss was chosen chairman and James H. Hathaway clerk of said meeting. Charles C. Wilson (later Judge Wilson of Henry County) was chosen supervisor, George Marlatt, town clerk; J. S. Hopkins, assessor; Harry Hull, collector; Paul Rouse, Jr., overseer of the poor; E. C. Stowell, Joseph Eby, James M. Rogers, commissioners of highways; David Rouse, overseer of roads; P. Chase, Z. G. Bliss and D. Whiffin a committee to divide the town into three road districts.

About 1869 \$30,000.00 aid was voted to the Peoria and Rock Island Railroad. Here began a controversy that has continued to the present time, the rivalry between Wady Petra and Stark villages. The story is told differently by different parties, and the writer cannot undertake to decide all the points between them. Some say that the depot was to be located "as near the center of the township as practicable;" others that it was to be in the south part of the township, anywhere provided it were not nearer than one-half mile to the county line. The east and west road at the first mile north of the county line had not been extended through,

because it would have to cross Mud Run several times. It had instead been run one-half mile north (through what is now Stark), and the topography of Camp Run had thrown the next road one and one-half miles north of that.

Some claimed that the logical point for the depot was at the last named crossing, just north of Camp Run, exactly in the center of the township from north to south. The residents there at that time, however, were largely renters who had no particular interests to make them get out and hustle, while the land owners at the Stark crossing claimed theirs to be the logical point, and thought the depot coming to them. Mr. Philander Chase did more hustling than any of them, however, and got the depot located on his farm, midway between the south one of the two crossings and the county line.

The east and west road through Wady Petra was petitioned for a number of times, but always refused by the road commissioners, who lived in and sided with the northern part of the township. The road was opened by Mr. Chase and adjoining land owners voluntarily, however, and in the course of time accepted by the township as a public highway.

Be these matters of history as they may, the first depot was at Wady Petra and the farmers north of that were not contented. In the course of a few years the railroad, being financially weak, fell into the hands of a receiver, Mr. J. R. Hilliard. He was favorable to the Stark project, and proceeded to build a switch and depot as soon as he could, and to assist the new town as much as possible. C. T. Newell and John Dawson were the chief local promoters. A company elevator was built and run by Joseph Anderson. Adam Seed

came from Princeville and put up the first dwelling, that now owned by Richard Gorman. John Berg built the second house and Joe Anderson the third, now the Ella Hull property. John Brumbaugh moved some smaller buildings from Wady Petra about this time, then Thomas McConn built a house, the one known as the Sam Schiebel place recently destroyed by fire, and Erastus Morrow built the post office dwelling. The first depot at Stark burned; a new one was completed in October, 1886, and that having since burned, the present one is No. 3. The first elevator also burned, soon after it was built, and Mr. Anderson built another.

Stark village was never platted, but Wady Petra was platted and surveyed by Edwin Butler, for Mrs. Anna K. Chase (widow of Philander Chase) in 1875. At this time an osage orange hedge formed the northern and southern boundaries. Twenty acres were included in the plat, with Chase and Front streets running north and south, and Main and Hamilton stretching east from the depot grounds.

Mr. Heber Chase's father, Philander Chase, was for many years a missionary preacher in Peoria and Stark counties, and in November, 1852, he settled with his family in Valley Township where, with one or two intervals of absence elsewhere, he raised his large family and resided until his death. He was the youngest son of Bishop Chase, the first Episcopalian bishop of Illinois, who had founded Jubilee College in Peoria county.

All of the building stone in this region was procured at this time from what is now Fred Streitmatter's "Chase eighty," a half mile south in Akron Township. Philander Chase needed

considerable stone, and not wishing to take from this quarry without knowing to whom the land belonged, hunted up the owners and bought the eighty-acre tract in question. Having thus assured himself of a supply of building material, which was scarce in those days, he built his residence, that now owned by John Nickolls, of this material. In 1854 he gave forty acres of land to the Episcopalian church, and with money donated in different localities and the East, started to build the stone church which stands yet, near the southeast corner of Section 31. This building was never finished because of lack of encouragement, and partly because Mr. Chase realizing the need of good schools for his children, moved about that time to Wyoming.

The Congregational Church of Stark originated in a series of meetings, which from 1880 to 1885 were held in various places in the vicinity. The first effort to organize a meeting was made by holding services in the warehouse of Simpson & Smith, but subsequently held in an unused cheese factory. Here a Sunday school was started in 1883, which, in connection with regular services, continued until it was proposed to build a church. The enterprise was to be known as the Union Church, and on the evening of February 19, 1885, many citizens of Stark and vicinity met to complete arrangements.

M. S. Smith presided, with W. F. Speers, secretary. A committee of five, consisting of M. S. Smith, H. Blood, W. F. Speers, Charles Hampson and L. Dixon, were elected as a financial committee. By February 26th, \$620.00 was subscribed, and April 19th a meeting was called to consider the question of organization. A committee to call a council to organize a Congrega-

tional Church, comprising H. F. Blood, M. S. Smith and L. E. Brown was appointed April 28th, and a Congregational Church was organized. On May 31st, Rev. J. Mitchell of Wyoming was called as pastor to preach once each Sunday for the consideration of \$300.00 per annum, and H. F. Blood, William Peterson and William Simpson appointed a committee to solicit subscriptions. On September 20, 1885, the church, which in the meantime had been erected and finished at a cost of about \$2,000.00 was dedicated, the sermon being preached by Rev J. K. Tompkins of Chicago. On the day of dedication, \$334.78 was collected to liquidate all the indebtedness of the church, and from its foundation the church has continued to grow.

In Valley Cemetery, known also as the Fox Cemetery (the only one in the township, as the Lawn Ridge Cemetery is in Marshall county,) are interred the following old settlers: W. Down, died in 1878; James Jackson, 1871; Jane Hodges, 1859; Margaret Jackson, 1882; Lovina Ann Eby, 1870; Harry Hull, 1878; Sally Hull, 1862; Carlton A. Fox, 1872; Wm. Marlatt, 1886, At Camp Grove, Lawn Ridge, Wyoming and other resting places for the dead in the vicinity, many old settlers are at home, while throughout the West others have found the end of life's journey.

The neighboring settlement of Lawn Ridge in Marshall county, dates its settlement back to 1845, when Charles Stone made his home there. He was followed by "Deacon" Smith and Joshua Powell, the deacon being the first blacksmith. Alden Hull settled in the township about 1845, and shortly after the United Presbyterian Church was organized there. In 1846 the Congregational Church of Blue Ridge was founded, and in 1850 the Methodists organized at the Center. On Octo-

ber 5, 1864, Lawn Ridge Lodge No. 415, A. F. & A. M., was chartered.

In the summer of 1901 the Peoria branch of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad crossed Valley Township from north to south, locating its station on the Captain John Speers farm. The new town named Speer, has developed a thrifty growth, furnishing an outlet for the corn and corn-fed hogs and cattle of the productive townships of Valley and La Prairie. Land values have gone up in Valley as in other parts of the corn belt, and many farm owners realize that it would not be safe to price their land at \$150.00 to \$200.00 per acre.

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